STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS

J.J. ABRAMS ON THE SCENES YOU'VE NEVER SEEN

APRIL 1/8, 2016
#1408/09

Entertainment WEEKLY

SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE

COLLECTOR'S COVERS!
1 OF 6
TO BUY ALL 6, GO TO EW.COM/GOT

Exclusive

DAME OF THRONES

THE NEW SEASON OF *GAME OF THRONES* (THE BEST YET, SAY THE CREATORS!) HAS THE **WOMEN ON TOP**

BY JAMES HIBBERD

Plus

HOLY SCHMIDT!
KIMMY & THE GANG ARE BACK
GET THE SCOOP ON P. 50

HOLY WONDER WOMAN!
A FIRST LOOK AT HER NEW FILM

EMILIA CLARKE AS DAENERYS TARGARYEN

VK.COM/STOPTHEPRESS

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Some secrets never let you go.
GAME OF SILENCE
SPECIAL PREMIERE TUE APRIL 12 | THURSDAYS 10/9c NBC
AFTER THE VOICE

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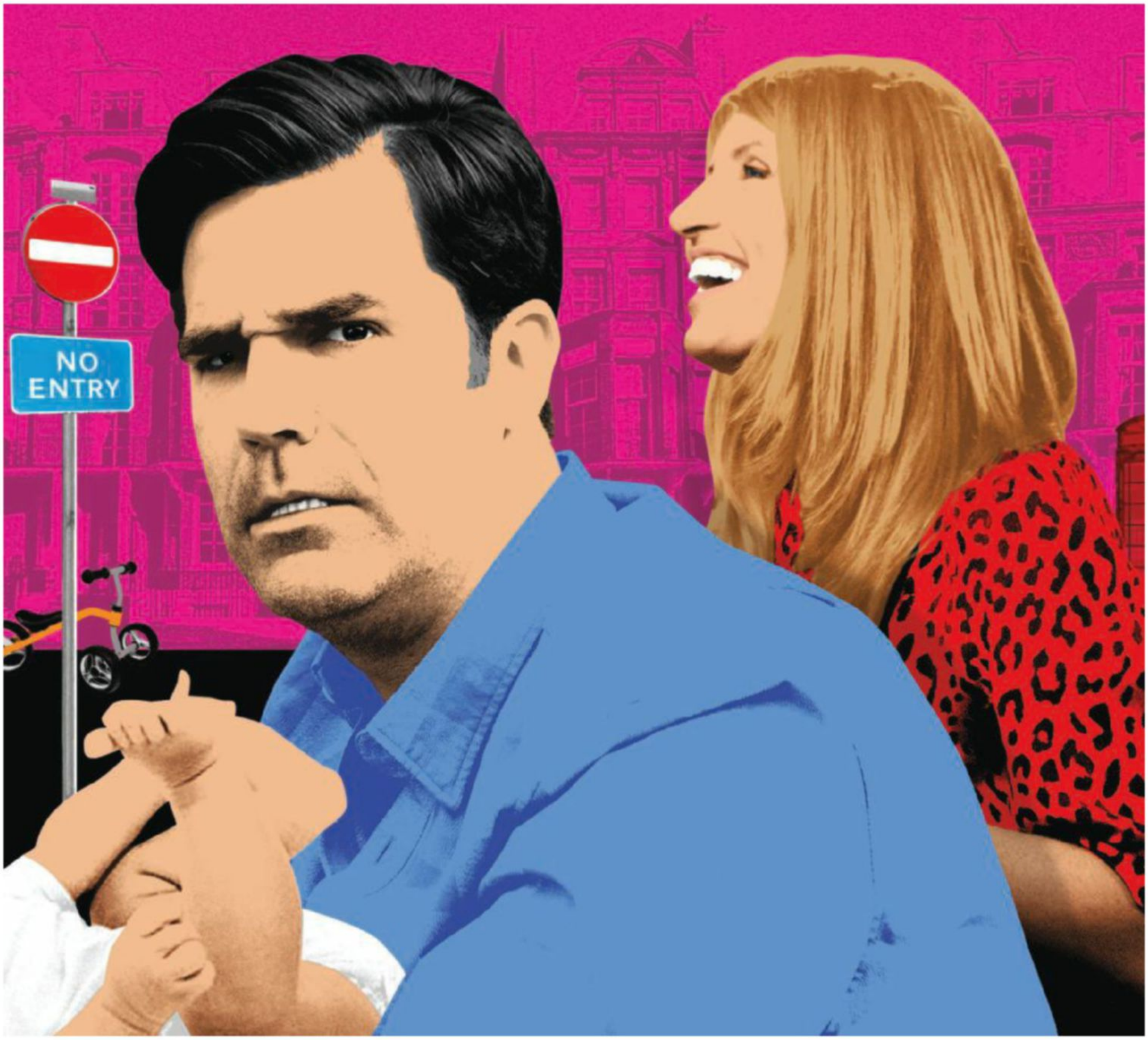
THE
TOP 10 THINGS
WE LOVE
THIS WEEK

The Must List

▼ Rob Delaney and Sharon Horgan



AMAZON STUDIOS (2)

1

TV

CATASTROPHE

• For parents Sharon (Sharon Horgan) and Rob (Rob Delaney), life is now even more of a...*what's the word*? But thanks to the challenges of parenthood ("sexual rainchecks"), season 2 of the raunch-com delights—and delivers. *(April 8, Amazon)*

ILLUSTRATION BY **JOHN RITTER**

The Must List

2 →

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4 →

"Does for publishing what Mad Men did for advertising." —James Magnuson
Three-Martini Lunch
a novel
Suzanne Rindell
author of The Other Typist

5 →

2

MUSIC

MIDWEST FARMER'S DAUGHTER, Margo Price

● The first country act signed to Jack White's label makes her debut with a stunning album that bursts with Loretta Lynn-style frankness, recounting Price's decade-plus of failing to break out in Music City.

3

TV

EMPIRE

● After almost four months away, Cookie, Lucious, and the rest of Empire Entertainment are finally, finally back for more music and drama—and an answer to the Rhonda cliff-hanger. *(Returns March 30, 9 p.m., Fox)*

4

BOOKS

THREE-MARTINI LUNCH, by Suzanne Rindell

● Think of it as the publishing industry's take on *Mad Men*: a gripping fictional dispatch from the world of talented writers and editors with big dreams, secrets, and booze bills.

5

MUSIC

LUKAS GRAHAM, Lukas Graham

● The Danish sensation crosses the pond, delivering 11 hyper-personal—and insanely catchy—hip-hop and soul-inflected pop songs about losing his father and hoping to make it big.

PRICE: ANGELINA CASTILLO; *EMPIRE*: CHUCK HODES; GRAHAM: CHAPMAN BAEHLER

THE ETIQUETTE OF WAR
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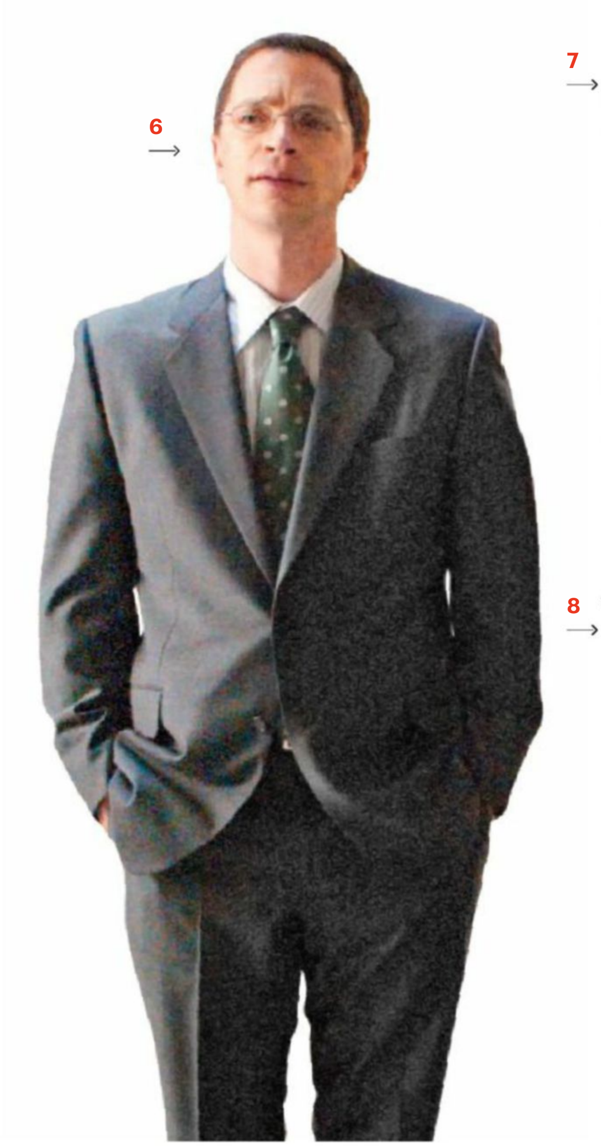

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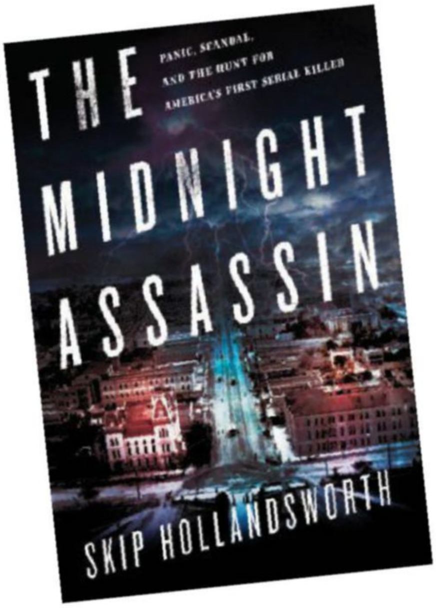
PANIC, SCANDAL, AND THE HUNT FOR AMERICA'S FIRST SERIAL KILLER
THE MIDNIGHT ASSASSIN
SKIP HOLLANDSWORTH

9 →

10 →

6

PODCASTS

THE WEST WING WEEKLY

● Actor Joshua Malina and Hrishikesh Hirway cohost this new podcast, which will play out as an episode-by-episode rewatch of and deep dive into the beloved political drama. It's required listening for all *West Wing* diehards. *(Begins March 23)*

7

MOVIES

EVERYBODY WANTS SOME!!

● *Boyhood* writer-director Richard Linklater follows up his adolescent epic with the next big step in life: college. As the spiritual sequel to *Dazed and Confused*, *Everybody Wants Some!!* plays like a hangout with your best friends from back then. *(R)*

8

BOOKS

THE MIDNIGHT ASSASSIN, by Skip Hollandsworth

● This riveting—and, frankly, terrifying—true story of a pre–Jack the Ripper serial killer in 1880s Austin reads like a crime thriller and makes a widespread panic from more than 100 years ago feel palpable.

9

MUSIC

SUPER, Pet Shop Boys

● The legendary British electro-pop duo are still kicking—and celebrating their third decade together with this ebullient new album. The record's energy is at its best on the fluffy and unabashed '90s-rave throwback track "The Pop Kids."

10

MOVIES

DARLING

● In writer-director Mickey Keating's stylish black-and-white chiller, Lauren Ashley Carter plays an intense young woman who agrees to look after a New York brownstone despite the premature demise of its previous caretaker. Bad decision, lady! *(NR)*

MALINA: NBC/PHOTOFEST; *EVERYBODY WANTS SOME*: VAN REDIN/PARAMOUNT; PET SHOP BOYS: PELLE CREPIN; *DARLING*: SCREEN MEDIA FILMS

TO BELONG,
YOU MUST BELIEVE.

"RIVETING AND SUPERBLY ACTED"
– *The Hollywood Reporter*

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EW
04.01 04.08
2016

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Game of Thrones' Sophie Turner, Maisie Williams, and Gwendoline Christie

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Game of Thrones
Shrinking violets? Damsels in distress? You're not going to find them in Westeros, where the heroines have always been as fierce, determined, and unyielding as the Iron Throne itself.
BY JAMES HIBBERD
PLUS We go behind the scenes of the most mysterious season yet and map out where we last saw all the key players.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY MARC HOM

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ANDREW McMAHON IN THE WILDERNESS

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6/15 TAMPA
6/16 ATLANTA
6/19 DANIEL ISLAND
6/20 CHARLOTTE
6/21 RALEIGH
6/22 VIRGINIA BEACH
6/24 BRISTOW
6/25 CANANDAIGUA
6/26 SCRANTON
6/28 GILFORD

6/30 WANTAGH
7/01 MANSFIELD
7/02 HOLMDEL
7/03 PITTSBURGH
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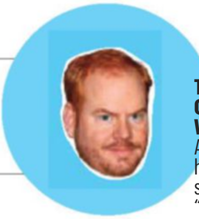
THE WEEK'S BEST

Sound Bites



TWEET OF THE WEEK
Anyone know how long we are supposed to "Shake It Off"? Taylor never specified and frankly I'm exhausted!
@JimGaffigan

"Garland is an experienced, moderate judge respected by everyone on both sides of the aisle, which is frankly more than you can say for most people at their own wedding."
—John Oliver, weighing in on President Obama's Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland, on *Last Week Tonight*

"My family needs a full-time investigator. That's not normal, is it?"
—Alicia (Julianna Margulies) on *The Good Wife*

"You can keep your hashtags, 'cause I like hash browns."
—Jay (Ed O'Neill), hosting his own Web show, on *Modern Family*

"I was bitten by a radioactive detective."
—Sherlock (Jonny Lee Miller), explaining his abilities, on *Elementary*

"If I take a night off, people get hurt."
—Daredevil (Charlie Cox) on *Daredevil*

"Bruce Wayne meets Clark Kent, I love it! I love bringing people together!"
—Lex Luthor (Jesse Eisenberg) in *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*

"Hey, Jesus, can I get a selfie?"
—Tyler Perry, contemplating how 21st-century people would embrace Christ, in *The Passion*

GAFFIGAN: ANDREW TOTH/FILMMAGIC; OLIVER: EMILY SHUR/HBO; MARGULIES, MILLER: JUSTIN STEPHENS/CBS (2); O'NEILL: BOB D'AMICO/ABC; COX: PATRICK HARBRON/NETFLIX; EISENBERG: CLAY ENOS; PERRY: SKIP BOLEN/FOX

Editor's Note

FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM
@HenryGoldblatt

Game On!

WELCOME BACK TO WESTEROS! A LOT HAS CHANGED since we last visited: Arya is coping with her blindness, Jon Snow is dead(?!), and *Game of Thrones* won its first Emmy award for best drama. During the off-season, EW editor at large **James Hibberd**—one of the preeminent TV-industry journalists in the country—was the only reporter allowed on the top secret set, a testament to how much the cast and crew of the HBO megahit respect him. Think of James as your tour guide to season 6, which premieres April 24. He shares some tantalizing plot details and talks to the women who are driving much of the show's action. Speaking of the number 6, that's how many collector's covers we've published this week (see below). You can buy the set at *ew.com/got* or pick them up at one of the many Barnes & Noble stores that have devoted special display space to showcase the issue.

•••

LIKE A REAL Housewife or a patient on *Grey's Anatomy*, I'm getting a face-lift. Well, my radio show is, anyway. Starting April 1, I'll be hosting a weekly program called *Obsessed* alongside EW staff writer **Marc Snetiker**, who is the brains behind The Bullseye. We'll share—you guessed it—all of our entertainment obsessions. (This week mine are: Canadian pop stars and *The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story*.) Marc and I would be honored if you'd check us out Fridays at noon on EW Radio SiriusXM Channel 105.

•••

ONE MORE NOTE: If you're in the NYC area on April 17 and you're a fan of *The Good Wife*, please come to the panel discussion I'll be moderating with the show's cast and creators at the Tribeca Film Festival. We'll screen one of the series' final episodes (sniff!), then I'll interview **Julianna Margulies**, **Christine Baranski**, and more about their favorite memories of the past seven years and on-the-set secrets. Tickets go on sale March 29 at tribecafilm.com. Hope to see you there.

Until next time!

Henry

HENRY GOLDBLATT

ON THE COVER

Emilia Clarke, Lena Headey, and Natalie Dormer photographed exclusively for EW by Marc Hom on Oct. 20, 2015, in Almeria, Spain. Maisie Williams, Sophie Turner, and Gwendoline Christie photographed exclusively for EW by Marc Hom on Oct. 26, 2015, in Belfast, Ireland. Logo by Jonathan Schubert. **To buy all six covers, go to *ew.com/got*.**

GOLDBLATT: PHOTOGRAPH BY MILLER MOBLEY

STAFF PICKS

What are you **reading** these days?

MEETA AGRAWAL
***Rules of Civility*, by Amor Towles**
A witty and wise novel about a young woman navigating high society in 1930s New York. It's so good I've been reading passages out loud to whoever will listen.

TINA JORDAN
***Sweetbitter*, by Stephanie Danler**
Sweetbitter is one of spring's hot debuts—and the best coming-of-age novel I've read since Curtis Sittenfeld's *Prep*.

JEFF JENSEN
***Patience*, by Daniel Clowes**
Clowes' graphic novel is a loopy sci-fi murder mystery that probes the murky male mind.

ISABELLA BIEDENHARN
***The Nest*, by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney**
Nothing enthralls me like dysfunctional rich people with money trouble.

MARTIN SCHWARTZ
***Semina Culture*, by Michael Duncan, Kristine McKenna, and Stephen Fredman**
A survey of the influential, counterculture California Beat artist Wallace Berman and his collaborative community of like-minded folks.

DAYLE CHESLER
***Life*, by Keith Richards with James Fox**
Richards is genuinely a man who has lived. Reading through his surprisingly detailed experiences, I can feel his spirit. If this is *Life*… then what have I been living?

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In an instant my skin is ready to glow.
Karlie Kloss

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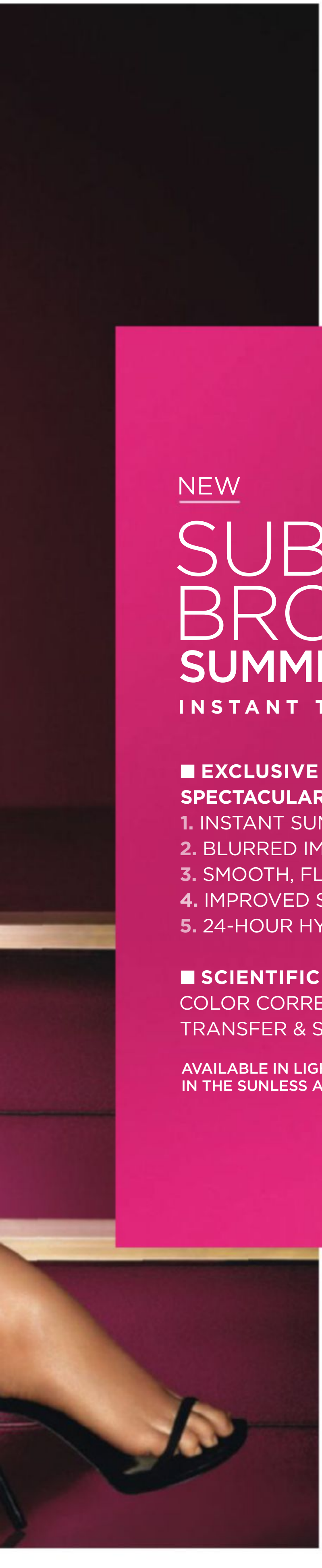

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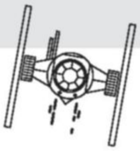
News+Notes

J.J. Abrams directs Harrison Ford, Joonas Suotamo as Chewbacca, and John Boyega in the depths of Starkiller Base. "You never go into a day of shooting and say this is probably going to be on the cutting-room floor," Abrams says. "Every day feels as essential as anything else."

Boyega's Finn hasn't yet fled from the First Order in this deleted scene, but he's already lost. With his mask marked by the blood of a fallen friend, he comes face-to-face with an enemy villager—and has to make a fateful decision.

When the First Order attacks the castle run by Lupita Nyong'o's Maz Kanata, Han Solo, Finn, and Chewie face down some stormtroopers in her basement. Han does his usual stellar job talking his way out of trouble. (This is from a bonus deleted scene available only digitally, but each Blu-ray combo pack includes a free download.)



THE FORCE AWAKENS LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT

J.J. Abrams gives a first look at deleted scenes and reveals details from the *Star Wars: Episode VII* Blu-ray and digital download. **By Anthony Breznican**

In a deleted scene, Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) leads a squad of stormtroopers to the crash site of the *Millennium Falcon* on Starkiller Base.The abandoned ship stirs bittersweet memories for the dark side acolyte.

DRIVER: INDUSTRIAL LIGHT & MAGIC/LUCASFILM; INSETS: DAVID JAMES/LUCASFILM (3)

●●● **LONG BEFORE *THE FORCE AWAKENS* BLASTED OPENING-DAY RECORDS ON DEC. 18,** director J.J. Abrams was planning to bring fans an even bigger piece of the *Star Wars* galaxy. The *Force Awakens* digital download (available April 1) and Blu-ray combo pack (April 5) will feature five minutes of deleted scenes and hours of in-depth featurettes. "It was a process that started almost as soon as work on the movie started," Abrams says. "You're always thinking about what sort of things will be worth people's time." Here are some of the extras that definitely deliver.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS

The in-home release will explore the work of composer John Williams, the craft behind the real-life BB-8 robot puppets, and the casting of galactic newcomers Daisy Ridley and John Boyega as the scavenger Rey and runaway stormtrooper Finn. Meanwhile, the whole crew gets its due in a feature-length behind-the-scenes documentary. "I would have been happy if we could have done a feature on each crew member, but obviously you have to make tough decisions," Abrams jokes.

SCAVENGED MOMENTS

There will also be seven deleted scenes, which were cut for time but add depth to characters. "There are so many things that end up getting cut because of the greater good, because of the rhythm of the sequence or a sense of redundancy," Abrams says. "It was sometimes after months of working on something and realizing, finally, you just don't need it." In addition to the ones previewed exclusively above, other deleted scenes on the discs include Carrie Fisher's General Leia receiving a distress signal from BB-8, and Finn and Rey hijacking a snowspeeder in an escape from Starkiller Base.

LUKE'S EXPANDED ROLE

The table read that kicked off principal photography became famous thanks to a photo Lucasfilm released of the whole cast gathered in a circle. The bonus feature "The Story Awakens" shows footage from that rehearsal, which included Mark Hamill, who didn't have any lines as Luke Skywalker in the final film. "It was partly trickery," Abrams admits. "We knew, obviously, that he didn't speak in the film." But rather than just sit quietly, Hamill agreed to read the stage directions. "It was a way of having [him] be part of every scene, every moment—not just spiritually or thematically or narratively, but actually," Abrams says.

THE FANDOM PRESENCE

The disc includes a mini-doc on the *Star Wars* fan base—particularly their contributions to the Force for Change charity, which raised about $10 million for UNICEF. "I thought the work that they did deserved to be talked about too," says Abrams. He shares that some of his most intense memories during production came from fan encounters, which were occasionally heartbreaking. A rough cut of the film was screened individually for about two dozen terminally ill *Star Wars* devotees who weren't expected to survive until release day. "I would speak with these people before and after," Abrams says. "Sometimes they were adults and other times they were children.... It was the most profound thing to be reminded how important this world that George Lucas created was, what it meant to people." To paraphrase Obi-Wan Kenobi: That's a force that will be with him—and them—always.

MORE ON EW.COM
See other exclusive images from deleted scenes.

◀ Alycia Debnam-Carey on *The 100*; (*below*) *The Walking Dead*'s Merritt Wever

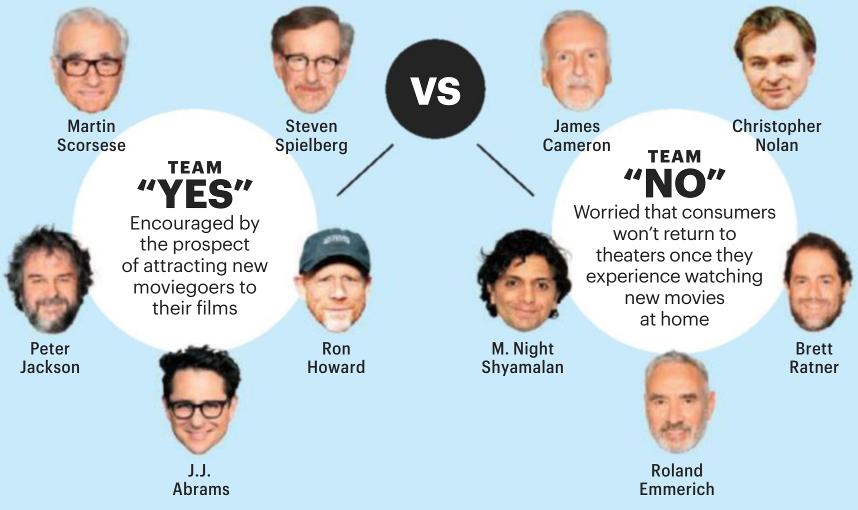
Femme Fatalities

Fans are speaking out against a disturbing trend of too many lesbian TV characters getting axed. **By Lynette Rice**

Deaths on *The Walking Dead* are almost as common as the march of zombies, but that didn't make the murder of Denise (Merritt Wever) on March 20 any less impactful. The dart she took through the eye was like an arrow through the heart of LGBT fans who are still mourning the death of Lexa (Alycia Debnam-Carey), a popular gay character on *The 100*. Since lesbian portrayals in prime time are so rare in the first place, these untimely deaths pack that much more of a punch—which is why #LGBTFansDeserveBetter trended for several hours after Lexa's death. In response, websites like Autostraddle tried to demonstrate how often it happens by listing every major or recurring lesbian or bisexual female who bit the dust over the past few decades (there are *many*). In their defense, both *TWD* and *The 100* have reasonable explanations for the characters' expiration dates: Wever told EW, "I always knew that it would be a one-season thing" on *TWD*, while *The 100* executive producer Jason Rothenberg pointed out that as a regular on *Fear the Walking Dead*, Debnam-Carey was available for only seven episodes this season. "The decision to kill that character was made a little bit easier by the fact that I knew we weren't going to get to play with Alycia anymore," he told EW. "Hopefully, people can forgive me." That may be wishful thinking: Rothenberg lost thousands of Twitter followers after Lexa's death, and now GLAAD is sitting up and taking notice of what some angry fans call a "Bury Your Gays" trope. "Far too often, LGBT women on scripted TV are killed off in deaths that serve no purpose," tweeted GLAAD president Sarah Kate Ellis. "Producers must do better."

THE WAR OVER SCREENING ROOM

Entrepreneur Sean Parker, of Napster/Facebook/Spotify fame, threw the movie industry for a loop two weeks ago with Screening Room, which offers consumers the ability to watch new Hollywood releases in their homes the same day they are released in theaters—all for a $150 set-top box and a $50 per-film rental fee. The plan intends to share profits with exhibitors—AMC Theatres has reportedly signed on—and is currently being shopped to the studios. High-profile filmmakers are quickly taking sides over this idea, betting big on whether it will ultimately help or hurt the moviegoing business. —*Nicole Sperling*



TEAM "YES"
Encouraged by the prospect of attracting new moviegoers to their films

TEAM "NO"
Worried that consumers won't return to theaters once they experience watching new movies at home

THE 100: CATE CAMERON/THE CW; *THE WALKING DEAD*: GENE PAGE/AMC; SCORSESE: MIREYA ACIERTO/GETTY IMAGES; SPIELBERG: STEVE GRANITZ/WIREIMAGE.COM; CAMERON: JOHN LAMPARSKI/WIREIMAGE.COM; NOLAN: DAVE J HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES; JACKSON: DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY IMAGES; ABRAMS: NOAM GALAI/GETTY IMAGES; HOWARD: CINDY ORD/GETTY IMAGES FOR SIRIUSXM; SHYAMALAN: JOHN SCIULLI/GETTY IMAGES/*WIRED*; EMMERICH: JB LACROIX/WIREIMAGE.COM; RATNER: JB LACROIX/WIREIMAGE.COM

HOW *THE LITTLE PRINCE* WAS ALMOST BANISHED

The acclaimed international hit overcomes a mysterious dumping by Paramount.

By Nina Terrero

After Paramount canceled plans to release *The Little Prince* less than a week before its March 18 release date, fans of the Antoine de Saint-Exupéry classic wondered if they'd ever see the film. At first, the project seemed fast-tracked for success. Featuring voice work by Jeff Bridges, Rachel McAdams, Paul Rudd, Marion Cotillard, James Franco, and Ricky Gervais, it premiered at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival, earning raves for its blend of stop-action and CG animation. It then grossed more than $80 million overseas. Still, Paramount quietly decided on March 12 to nix the Stateside debut. "As it turns out, the much anticipated U.S. release of this special and unique film will have to be anticipated just a little bit more," director Mark Osborne (*Kung Fu Panda*) tweeted. Enter Netflix, which, on March 17, announced it would stream the film. We still don't have a release date or solid reason for the delay, but at least *The Little Prince* is no longer lost in space.

THE LITTLE PRINCE: ORANGE STUDIOS; *MR. ROBOT*: PETER KRAMER/USA NETWORK

FIRST LOOK

MR. ROBOT RETURNS

PRODUCTION IS UNDER WAY on the second season of last summer's breakout drama *Mr. Robot*, and already the mind games are beginning. Fans of the heady hacker thriller may be surprised to see Elliot Alderson (Rami Malek) back playing chess with his not-really-there friend, Mr. Robot (Christian Slater), after the massive revelation that Mr. Robot is Elliot's mental projection of his dead father. But according to series creator and executive producer Sam Esmail, the evolving relationship between the two is a central component of the story moving forward.

"Now that Elliot is aware [of the truth about Mr. Robot], that has opened the door. We're literally externalizing Elliot's mentality and his inner conflict, Mr. Robot being the other half of Elliot," Esmail says. "In the first season, because Elliot wasn't aware, there was a mystery about who Mr. Robot was and what his real motivations were. Now we know, so what does that mean? What does Elliot really want?"

Which makes us wonder: How does a relationship between a man and his imagined dead father work? From the way Esmail describes Elliot's dynamic with Mr. Robot, the answer is: grudgingly.

"What you've got to understand is that when Mr. Robot and Elliot go at it, he's really going at it with himself," Esmail says. "What I *can* say is that they're communicating, but it's almost under duress. Obviously, Elliot can't escape him, and Mr. Robot doesn't want to leave. It's a conflict, but it's actually more of an impasse that they somehow have to negotiate." Whatever happened to just seeing dead people? —*Kevin P. Sullivan*

▼ Christian Slater and Rami Malek

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Kristin Chenoweth, John Spencer, and Joshua Malina

TOUR *THE WEST WING* WITH JOSHUA MALINA

Even in an election year, the former TV White House employee's podcast is the biggest political news for fanatics of the series. **By Ray Rahman**

Joshua Malina's Will Bailey joined the Bartlett administration in *The West Wing*'s fourth season as a lowly speechwriter, but now he's running the whole show—sort of. The actor and his pal Hrishikesh Hirway (host of the podcast *Song Exploder*) have launched *The West Wing Weekly*, which promises to break down every episode of **Aaron Sorkin**'s Emmy-winning drama. And for *Wing* nuts who've been re-binging the show for years, it gets even better: They plan to invite insiders and fans—including *Hamilton*'s **Lin-Manuel Miranda**—to join the fun. Malina adds that **Rob Lowe** and Sorkin, "the big dog himself," are also on his wish list. "**Bradley Whitford** is in the agreed-to-do-it/not-responding-to-further-phone-calls phase," Malina says. "I will haunt him and make his life a living hell until he comes on." Whether or not he nabs Whitford, here are the episodes Malina is most looking forward to talking about:

1

"A PROPORTIONAL RESPONSE"
SEASON 1, EPISODE 3

"I don't know if I should spoil it, but I think we're going to get **Dulé Hill** on to discuss his first episode and his entrance into the series—I'm very excited about that."

2

"GAME ON"
SEASON 4, EPISODE 6

"I don't want to seem like it's all revolving around me, but the episodes that stand out are the ones I'm involved in, so I'm anxious to talk about my first-ever episode. That may be a year from now or more, should we be so lucky."

3

"NO EXIT"
SEASON 5, EPISODE 20

"All my scenes were with **Richard Schiff** as Toby—Toby and Will are sort of locked down because of an anthrax scare at the White House. They're locked in the same room [the whole time]! I really enjoyed shooting that."

SPOILER ALERT

WHEN KINGPIN MET PUNISHER

The two iconic comic-book characters came face-to-bruised-face this season on Netflix's *Daredevil*. Vincent D'Onofrio talks about the clash of the criminals. **By Shirley Li**

Even in prison, Wilson Fisk (Vincent D'Onofrio, above) couldn't help but play Kingpin. The villain who Daredevil (Charlie Cox) defeated in season 1 made a surprise return in the second half of season 2, delivering the Punisher (Jon Bernthal) an opportunity to escape from jail. To D'Onofrio, a lifelong fan of the comics, playing the tortured big bad again felt exciting, but playing him opposite another classic *Daredevil* criminal was even better. "Having read the comics when I was a kid, it's so much fun," he says. "The writers write these complex characters, so it's not like you're just dressing up and having a good time."

Still, that *is* what happened off screen. "We hit it off immediately," D'Onofrio recalls of meeting Bernthal. "We didn't stop talking the whole time. With Jonny and guys like Charlie, there's no ego involved. Everybody's very open to getting it right, because we have this responsibility to the fans." And D'Onofrio's keeping quiet on whether his final scene—in which he requests to reexamine files on Matt Murdock, Daredevil's alter ego—means Fisk is figuring out who the Devil of Hell's Kitchen might be. "It's all about things to come," he teases. "All I can say is that I'm lucky." Lucky for him—not so much for Daredevil.

For the full Q&A with D'Onofrio, go to ***EW.com***

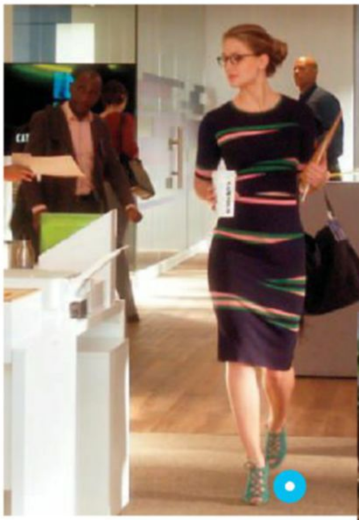
Jon Bernthal as the Punisher

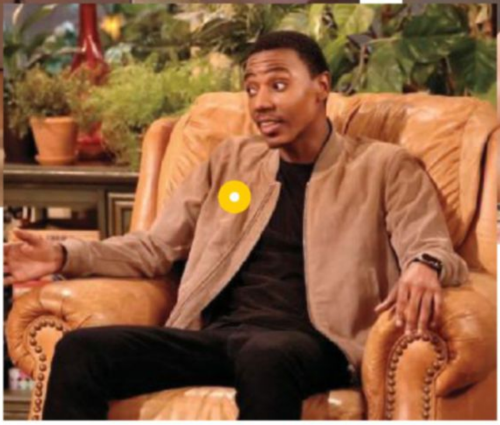
THE WEST WING: CHUCK HODES/WARNER BROS./GETTY IMAGES; D'ONOFRIO, BERNTHAL: PATRICK HARBRON/NETFLIX (2)

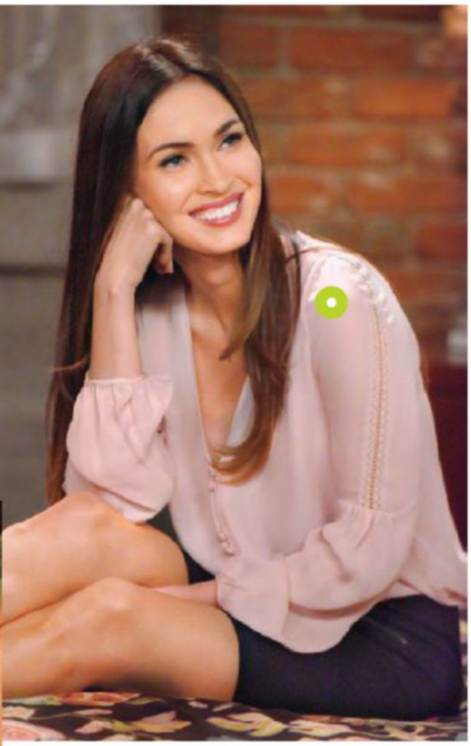
WE SHOP IT FOR YOU
Dying to buy something you spotted recently on TV or in a movie? Email **stylehunter@ew.com** and visit EW.com to see what we've found.

Score the Looks You Loved

By Isabella Biedenharn



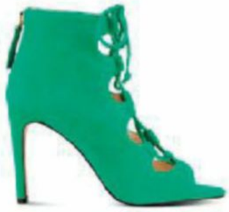




SUPERGIRL

I'm obsessed with the emerald green gladiator stilettos that Kara (Melissa Benoist) recently wore on *Supergirl*. Who makes them? —BRITTANY

Kara's exposure to caustic kryptonite during the "Falling" episode makes the hero abandon her typically conservative work-wear choices in favor of a formfitting sheath and racy heels by Gianvito Rossi. "We wanted it to be noticeable, so that people would turn their heads in the office and be like, 'What's going on with her?'" costume designer Kiersten Ronning explains of the makeover. Kara's sexy heels have been discontinued—maybe Maxwell Lord's doing?—so snag this "Unfrgetabl" Nine West style instead.

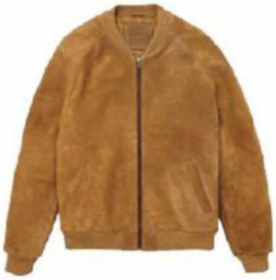


LACE-UP PUMPS	
NineWest.com	$109

THE CARMICHAEL SHOW

Where can I buy the suede jacket Jerrod Carmichael wears in the Cosby-themed episode? —IAN

For the sitcom's season 2 kickoff—which sees Jerrod and his family debating the ethics of attending comedian Bill Cosby's stand-up show—costume designer Beth Morgan wanted to make sure her leading man's look didn't detract from the night's heavy themes. "That's why we loved this Alexander McQueen jacket, because it had a big fashion statement but wasn't distracting," Morgan explains. "I never want the clothes to take you out of a scene." Grab a lower-priced look-alike for yourself over on Asos.com.

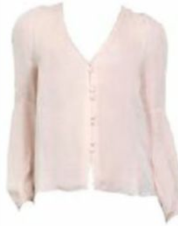


SUEDE BOMBER JACKET	
Asos.com	$169

NEW GIRL

I'm dying to know where Megan Fox's pink blouse in her debut episode on this season's *New Girl* is from. Love it! —JESSICA

With Zooey Deschanel's character Jess sequestered on jury duty, guest star Fox moved into the loft for a five-episode arc. Her arrival brought some fresh energy to the show's familiar structure, and with it a sexier contrast with Jess' innocent style. Rather than opting for polka dots, whimsical prints, and frills, Fox's pharmaceutical sales rep Reagan rocked sophisticated fabrics and sleek silhouettes. Her ladylike pink top is from designer Katheryn Rice's label Carmella, and is perfect for adding instant polish to any wardrobe.



"TIESA" TOP	
AmandaMillsLA.com	$294

SUPERGIRL: CBS; *THE CARMICHAEL SHOW*: CHRIS HASTON/NBC; *NEW GIRL*: RAY MICKSHAW/FOX

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Get the look designed by Pat McGrath

Formidable, fearless and fresh, the Jedi look channels the light side in STAR WARS: The Force Awakens. Eyes reflect light in nudes and gold, fringed with long lashes. This look uses contouring with cheek color to create structure and strength.

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THE WILDEST, BITCHIEST, SHADIEST, TABLE-FLIPPING-EST,

THE REAL HOUSEWIV

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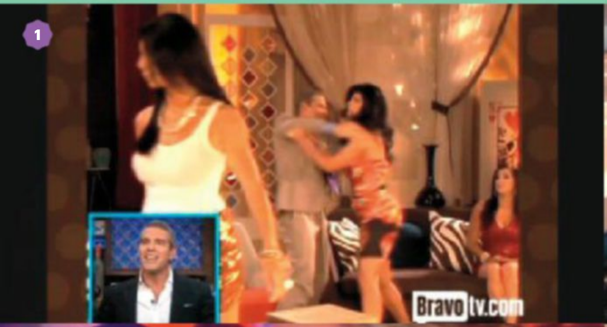

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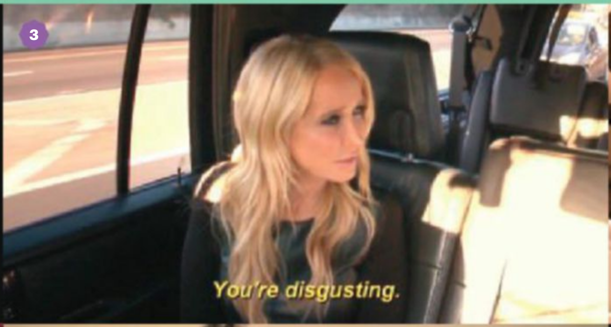

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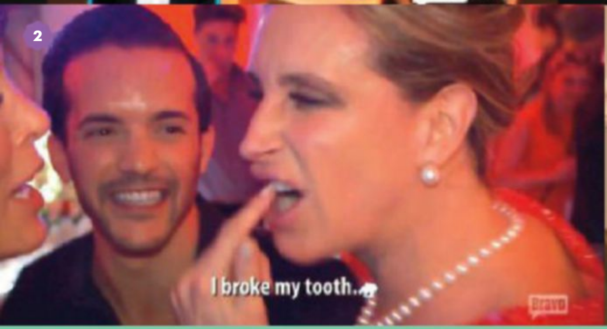

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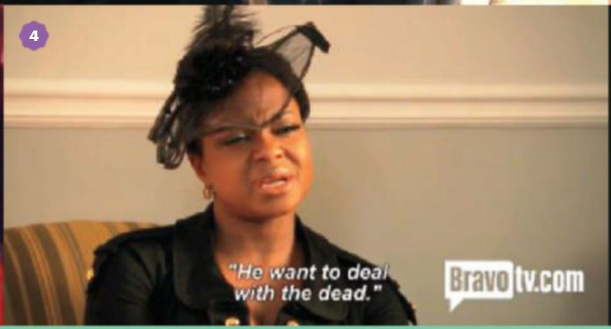

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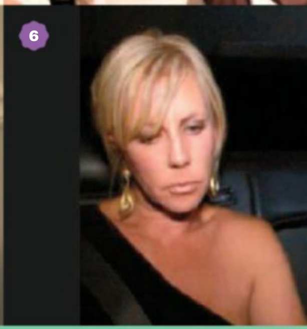


1 ⁄

TERESA GIUDICE SHOVES ANDY COHEN!

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF NEW JERSEY, SEASON 2

Giudice made headlines when she flipped a table during an explosive season 1 scene, but she cemented her reputation as the franchise's most hotheaded Housewife at the season 2 reunion, when she pushed host Andy Cohen. "He looked as shocked as we all felt," says Wilson. "The fact that she dared to touch him—the father of the franchise, our fearless leader—is amazing."

2 ⁄

EVERY SCENE WITH SONJA MORGAN

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF NEW YORK CITY

"She always delivers the best moments," says Schneider. "Whether she's claiming to have partied with John F. Kennedy Jr. or breaking a tooth on the dance floor, trying to get a toaster oven to the market or ordering around a slew of interns, she never fails to make us smile—or squirm."

3 ⁄

LISA RINNA AND KIM RICHARDS' CAR RIDE

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF BEVERLY HILLS, SEASON 5

Troubled Housewife (and former child star) Richards made then newcomer Rinna uncomfortable during an incredibly awkward one-on-one. "Kim goes from ornery to depressed to sweet to seductive at a breakneck speed," says Schneider. "She leaves Lisa speechless—and me realizing I'll never have Kim's acting range."

4 ⁄

PHAEDRA PARKS' DEADLY ONE-LINERS

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF ATLANTA

The *RHOA* star's story line has often focused on her (no joke!) mortuary business. And Parks has laced her confessionals with references to the underworld. ("I like everything about the dead 'cause they're so quiet," she said.) Says Wilson: "We pray Phaedra buries us one day!"

5 ⁄

WAS MICHAELE SALAHI A REDSKINS CHEERLEADER?

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF D.C., SEASON 1

The best scene from the ill-fated *Real Housewives of D.C.*? "Andy grilled Michaele [at the reunion] about whether she was or wasn't a Washington Redskins cheerleader, and she simply did not know!" says Wilson. "She could not recall! I guess we'll never know."

WIG-PULLING-EST MOMENTS OF ALL TIME

VES TURNS 10

Ten years ago, Bravo changed reality TV with the launch of *The Real Housewives of Orange County*. Superfans **Casey Wilson** and **Danielle Schneider**, hosts of the hilarious *Bitch Sesh* podcast (download it on iTunes now) and stars of Hulu's *Housewives* parody *The Hotwives*, pick their top scenes from the beloved franchise.

7

8

9

10

6 /

VICKI GUNVALSON'S EMPTY "LOVE TANK"

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF ORANGE COUNTY, SEASON 4

In *RHOC*'s early years, viewers saw the demise of the marriage between Vicki Gunvalson, the Susan Lucci of the Bravo franchise, and Donn Gunvalson. Vicki best summed up how she felt by saying her "love tank" was empty. "This has become the scientific standard of measurement I now use for my own marriage," says Wilson.

7 /

THE DINNER PARTY FROM HELL

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF BEVERLY HILLS, SEASON 1

The first season's stars of *RHOBH* had a bizarre dinner party when hostess Camille Grammer invited her friend, a medium named Allison DuBois, to join. "The medium goes on to insult the ladies and say she could tell one of the women when she will die!" Schneider says. "Ya know, just a regular girls' night."

8 /

SHEREÈ WHITFIELD YANKS KIM ZOLCIAK'S WIG

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF ATLANTA, SEASON 2

During this wild brawl, the two *RHOA* stars threw down in the streets, with NeNe Leakes attempting to mediate. But, as Wilson remembers, "inexplicably Michael Lohan showed up! It's actually surprising he hadn't shown up sooner. He belongs in the background of reality TV. He seems in his natural habitat there."

9 /

"WHO GONNA CHECK ME, BOO?"

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF ATLANTA, SEASON 2

Shereè Whitfield delivered one of the best Housewives comebacks ever. "She was planning a 'queen of the night' party that included a throne, a helicopter, and a poet," says Schneider. "When the party planner cannot deliver on said items, Shereè and he engage in an epic battle that culminates with her infamous quote, 'Who gonna check me, boo?' The answer is no one, Shereè, absolutely no one!"

10 /

#SCARYISLAND

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF NEW YORK CITY, SEASON 3

RHONY star Kelly Bensimon had a meltdown while on vacation at a Caribbean getaway, now remembered as Scary Island. "In a slew of strange speeches that cover jelly beans, satchels of gold, Al Sharpton, Gwyneth Paltrow, and 'Free to Be...You and Me,' Kelly slowly loses her mind," says Schneider, "all while maintaining her gorgeous beachy waves."

WILSON: MONICA SCHIPPER/GETTY IMAGES; SCHNEIDER: ALLEN BEREZOVSKY/WIREIMAGE

Sophie Turner, Maisie Williams, and Gwendoline Christie photographed on Oct. 26, 2015, in Belfast, Ireland

Queens
of the
Throne
Age

GAME OF THRONES

Written by **JAMES HIBBERD** *@JamesHibberd*

SHRINKING VIOLETS? DAMSELS IN DISTRESS? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FIND THEM THIS SEASON IN WESTEROS, WHERE THE HEROINES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AS FIERCE, DETERMINED, AND UNYIELDING AS THE IRON THRONE ITSELF.

Photographs by **MARC HOM**

A DYNASTIC DRAGON queen seeking her birthright. An outcast warrior on a mission. A shattered ingenue learning to survive. A young assassin thirsting for vengeance. A savvy seductress seeking freedom. A protective mother who crushes the slightest threat. The women of *Game of Thrones* are cheered, worshipped, desired, and debated, and they're about to take center stage. The HBO international hit's ultra-mysterious sixth season has the show's core female cast facing colossal new challenges and evolving in surprising ways. † "The women are rocking this season—and I'm not just saying that because they're on your cover," says HBO programming president Michael Lombardo. "Daenerys (Emilia Clarke) always does, but also Brienne (Gwendoline Christie), Arya (Maisie Williams), Sansa (Sophie Turner), Cersei (Lena Headey), Margaery (Natalie Dormer), and other characters too, like Yara (Gemma Whelan). They power this season. It's organic to the storytelling, yet a radical shift. It's the women that are the hope that we're watching as the chess pieces move this season, and it's very exciting." † The ascension of *Thrones*' female characters isn't a new strategy. Showrunners David Benioff and Dan Weiss, working from the narrative template established by author George R.R. Martin, introduced Westeros five years ago as a male-dominated world ruled by figures like Khal Drogo (Jason Momoa) and Tywin Lannister (Charles Dance). One by one, these strong and commanding men have suffered tragic turns of fate that have cleared the way for this fleet of heroines. (You could say that behind every great woman on *Thrones* there's at least one dead or maimed man whose downfall factored into her rise.) Off screen, too, the female actors have become breakouts—landing coveted roles in blockbuster films such as *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (Christie) and *X-Men: Apocalypse* (Turner). † While long planned, the season's shift might inadvertently also help quell the spike in criticism of the show's female story lines—the wedding-night abuse of Sansa Stark being a particular flash point. For the *Thrones* producers and cast, such complaints are epically frustrating as the series has far more strong and textured female characters than most shows on TV. "What's beautiful about *Game of Thrones* is its depiction of women in so many different stages of development," Clarke says. "There are women depicted as sexual tools, women who have zero rights, women who are queens but only to a man, and then there are women who are literally unstoppable and as powerful as you can possibly imagine. So it pains me to hear people taking *Thrones* out of context with anti-feminist spin—because you can't do that about this show. It shows the range that happens to women, and ultimately shows that women are not only equal but have a lot of strength." † In the following pages we spend time with six women as unique as the roles they play. Get ready: They're about to change Westeros forever.

Lena Headey, Natalie Dormer, and Emilia Clarke photographed on Oct. 20, 2015, in Almeria, Spain

Maisie WILLIAMS

Maisie Williams enters a London coffee shop in a thick furry coat and plops into a chair, ready to talk. She's been out all night, but still has more energy than anybody in the room. "I'm 18 now, so it's cool, I'll be out and someone's like, 'Oh my God, you're from *Game of Thrones*! What are you doing here?' I'm like, 'I live here.'"

In the season 5 finale, Arya was struck blind as punishment for breaking the rules of the House of Black and White, where she's training to become an assassin. Producers gave her a choice for achieving the blindness effect: wear foggy contacts or have the special-effects team use CGI in postproduction. Williams chose contacts since it would look more realistic. It's a choice that reflects the same level of commitment she showed when she was cast on the show at only 12 and opted to learn to sword-fight left-handed because that's how Arya fights in Martin's books.

The contacts, it turns out, were a huge pain. "And I hate saying that because I hate hearing people complain about things like that,'" she says. "You hear about Jennifer Lawrence and her blue paint [in *X-Men*] and I remember thinking, 'That can't hurt,' and now I'm like, 'Holy s---, I'm sorry I ever felt like that,' because these little things in your eyes are so thick, they're the most painful things ever." Interviewing Williams is like talking to somebody who is young and old at the same time—not unlike her character, just happier—and her thoughts go unpredictably deep and contemplative. Like when the subject of Arya as a feminist comes up. "I feel like we should stop calling feminists 'feminists' and just start calling people who aren't feminist 'sexist,' and then everyone else is just a human," Williams says. "You are either a normal person or a sexist. People get a label when they're bad."

Natalie DORMER

It must be so frustrating for Margaery Tyrell—she should be winning this thing! Consider: Margaery's got the smarts, the family name, and skills both social and, yes, sexual. Three times she's queued up to be queen, and she's married to the current king (young Tommen, played by Dean-Charles Chapman), yet tragic circumstances beyond her control keep pushing an easy reign beyond her grasp. Now she's at her lowest point yet, being imprisoned by the Faith Militant while archrival Cersei is back at the Red Keep. "We've seen Margaery in a lot of sticky situations, but she's never been out of her depth," says Natalie Dormer. "She's always given the impression of being a step ahead. Now you see her genuinely fearful of how to handle the situation." It's a problem that Dormer herself never seems to have, with the ultra-confident actress juggling perhaps the busiest schedule among the show's cast. She's appeared in seven films since we met Margaery in season 2, including the recent horror thriller *The Forest*, and had a multi-episode arc on CBS' *Elementary*. "In true Natalie Dormer style, I try to fit a million projects into a single year," the 34-year-old says breezily. Still, the new season will keep her busy matching wits with the Faith Militant's leader, the High Sparrow (Jonathan Pryce), who is possibly the first man Margaery has ever met who is immune to her charms. She'll have to figure out how to handle him if she's to avoid Cersei's fate last season. "The walk of shame looms large in Margaery's brain," Dormer says. "If somebody as powerful, savvy, and veteran like Cersei can be taken down that way..." She doesn't finish the thought—either it's too horrible to ponder, or she's already thinking about yet another project.

Lena HEADEY

You're about to see a radically transformed Cersei Lannister. Last year's punishing imprisonment and humiliating walk of shame to the Red Keep have changed the queen mother. Cersei will be humble, wise, cautious, and far more forgiving... and if you believe any of that, you don't know her at all. "It's worsened things!" Lena Headey says with a wicked grin. "I don't think she's found any humility. She's even more self-preservatory—she can't believe that happened to her, of all people. It's fueled her desire for power and her desperation to prove that she's somebody worth considering." Headey tells us this at a private club in London—which may sound fancy, but her chosen venue is a homey throwback and she's dining in her yoga gear. She may be the least recognizable *Thrones* star out of costume, with her tats and black hair. "It's probably her most interesting season," continues the 42-year-old, who was nominated for an Emmy last year. "Now she really has nothing to lose and she has everything to gain from a horrible position she finds herself in." Expect a reunion between Cersei and her brother/lover Jaime, who failed miserably to bring back their daughter, Myrcella (Nell Tiger Free), alive. "Her relationship with Jaime is at an all-time weird level," she notes (which is really saying something), but if the two have any hope of stopping the Faith Militant's power grab, they'll have to work together—which we haven't really seen since the show's first season. "It just keeps getting better," Headey says of the new episodes. "It's juicy, and it's so f---ing dark."

LOGO BY **JONATHAN SCHUBERT**

EMILIA
CLARKE

It's just a few hours before she's to be named *Esquire*'s Sexiest Woman Alive, and Emilia Clarke is howling like a coyote. Clarke is in the middle of the Spanish desert resting between takes on the sprawling *Thrones* set, long after midnight, and her lone "aaaahh-hoooo!" keeps ringing out in the darkness, amusingly befuddling the crew. Clarke's coolest trait is one that fans of Daenerys the Unburnt have likely never seen: her lightning-quick, disarmingly goofy sense of humor. (She famously performed the funky chicken during the most important audition of her life when she read for *Thrones*.) Sitting in her trailer, post-howls, the 29-year-old—who most recently played Sarah Connor in *Terminator Genisys*—had her wit in high gear discussing Dany's latest adventures.

So when we last saw Dany she was being captured by the Dothraki after riding off on Drogon.
It was lovely because you got that sweet-and-sour of riding off into the distance at last—and then it's like: "Where the f--- am I?" This season it feels like she's learning the last lesson she needs to learn. She's not being swayed by anyone. She knows what's what. There's just a few remnants of being a human being she's shaking off.

And you're back with the Dothraki for the first time since season 2...
This is not the khalasar that she conquered. She knows all too well that getting on the wrong side of the Dothraki is not what you want to be doing. But she's kind of a Dothraki at heart because that's where she learned her strength. Not just that she's fireproof and gave birth to dragons.

At least you're out of the pyramid and back in action.
Yes, back to square one, feeling like a slave—simply for being a woman!

***Thrones* sexism, jeez...**
Thrones sexism, dammit! Right there back to fighting to show the Dothraki I'm more than my appearances. It's like coming home, or like going back to your college reunion: "Yes, I've lost 20 pounds, so come with me...if you want to live!"

Oh, boy.
I can't help it!

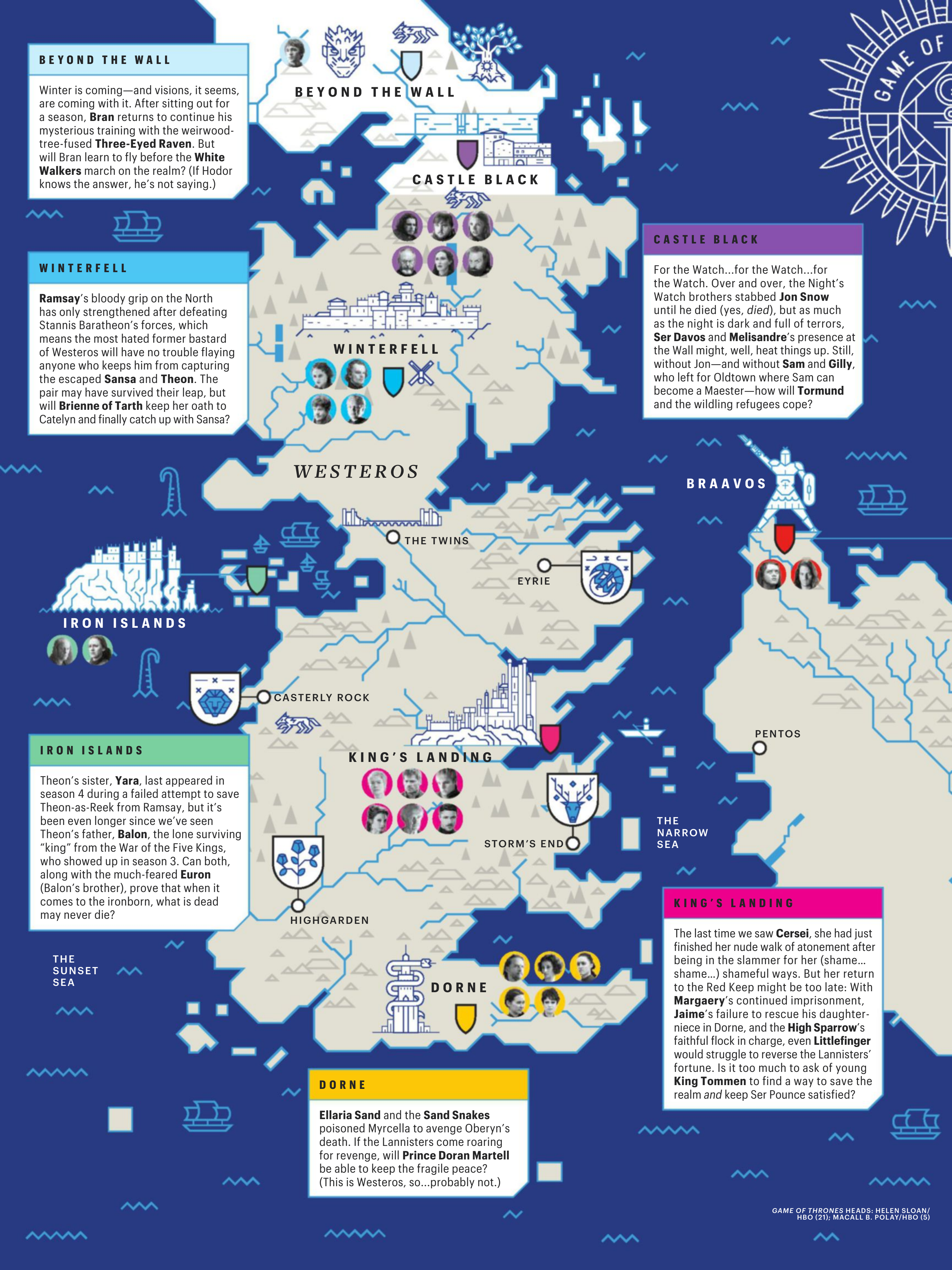
GAME OF THRONES

SOPHIE
TURNER

There's nothing like seeing regal Sansa Stark standing on a windswept grassy hilltop, unabashedly channeling Beyoncé: "Where else can I *gooohh*! Chasing *youuu*! Memories turn to dust!..." The ever-upbeat Sophie Turner, 20, doesn't carry her character's wounded solemnity in real life—she can snap in and out of playing Sansa in an instant—which is for the best, considering that Turner's season 5 story line had the chaste Winterfell heir becoming the brutalized bride-slave of the show's biggest psychopath, Ramsay Bolton (Iwan Rheon). For all her onscreen hardship, the arc gave Turner a chance to deliver her strongest performance yet and continued an evolution well under way before season 5 began. It's tough to remember that Sansa once lived deep in the shadow of her lethal sister, Arya: gradually working her way from being Joffrey's naive captive to becoming the gothic "Darth Sansa," manipulating Littlefinger (Aidan Gillen), then struggling to escape the clutches of the Boltons. "I've had more people saying, 'You're my favorite character' than ever before, which is amazing, because I used to get 'You're my least favorite character,'" says Turner, who makes her major-feature debut this summer as Jean Grey in *X-Men: Apocalypse*. "She's definitely got a fan base now, and they're rallying behind her. Finally people see Sansa how I see her."

GWENDOLINE
CHRISTIE

You'll be relieved to know: Brienne is finished waiting around in the snow. "After season 5, people would come up on the street moaning about why wasn't Brienne doing more," Gwendoline Christie says of her character, who spent the back half of last year patiently watching for a distress signal from Sansa. "I got the scripts for season 6 and I thought the story was so fantastic. It's really exciting to see Brienne burst forth again." Up until now, Brienne's ferocious combat skills have kept her alive despite being saddled with traits that usually prove quickly fatal in Westeros (you know, like being a decent person). This time she'll employ more than her brawn when she's forced to encounter characters she's never met before. (Speculate away!) "Brienne is so unique and unconventional and so strong, and I love that the writing hasn't allowed her to just rest there," Christie, 35, says. Though last year's small-screen duties were relatively modest, the actress did appear in two huge film franchises, playing Commander Lyme in *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay—Part 2* and Captain Phasma in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. Yet for Christie, high-profile roles aren't just about her own success. "Women talk to me about how they're really happy that Brienne illustrates an unconventional side of femininity and womanhood compared to what we're used to seeing," she says. "There's a shift in the kind of things people want to see in entertainment, and I hope we see more different incarnations of women."



BEYOND THE WALL

Winter is coming—and visions, it seems, are coming with it. After sitting out for a season, **Bran** returns to continue his mysterious training with the weirwood-tree-fused **Three-Eyed Raven**. But will Bran learn to fly before the **White Walkers** march on the realm? (If Hodor knows the answer, he's not saying.)

WINTERFELL

Ramsay's bloody grip on the North has only strengthened after defeating Stannis Baratheon's forces, which means the most hated former bastard of Westeros will have no trouble flaying anyone who keeps him from capturing the escaped **Sansa** and **Theon**. The pair may have survived their leap, but will **Brienne of Tarth** keep her oath to Catelyn and finally catch up with Sansa?

IRON ISLANDS

Theon's sister, **Yara**, last appeared in season 4 during a failed attempt to save Theon-as-Reek from Ramsay, but it's been even longer since we've seen Theon's father, **Balon**, the lone surviving "king" from the War of the Five Kings, who showed up in season 3. Can both, along with the much-feared **Euron** (Balon's brother), prove that when it comes to the ironborn, what is dead may never die?

DORNE

Ellaria Sand and the **Sand Snakes** poisoned Myrcella to avenge Oberyn's death. If the Lannisters come roaring for revenge, will **Prince Doran Martell** be able to keep the fragile peace? (This is Westeros, so...probably not.)

CASTLE BLACK

For the Watch...for the Watch...for the Watch. Over and over, the Night's Watch brothers stabbed **Jon Snow** until he died (yes, *died*), but as much as the night is dark and full of terrors, **Ser Davos** and **Melisandre**'s presence at the Wall might, well, heat things up. Still, without Jon—and without **Sam** and **Gilly**, who left for Oldtown where Sam can become a Maester—how will **Tormund** and the wildling refugees cope?

KING'S LANDING

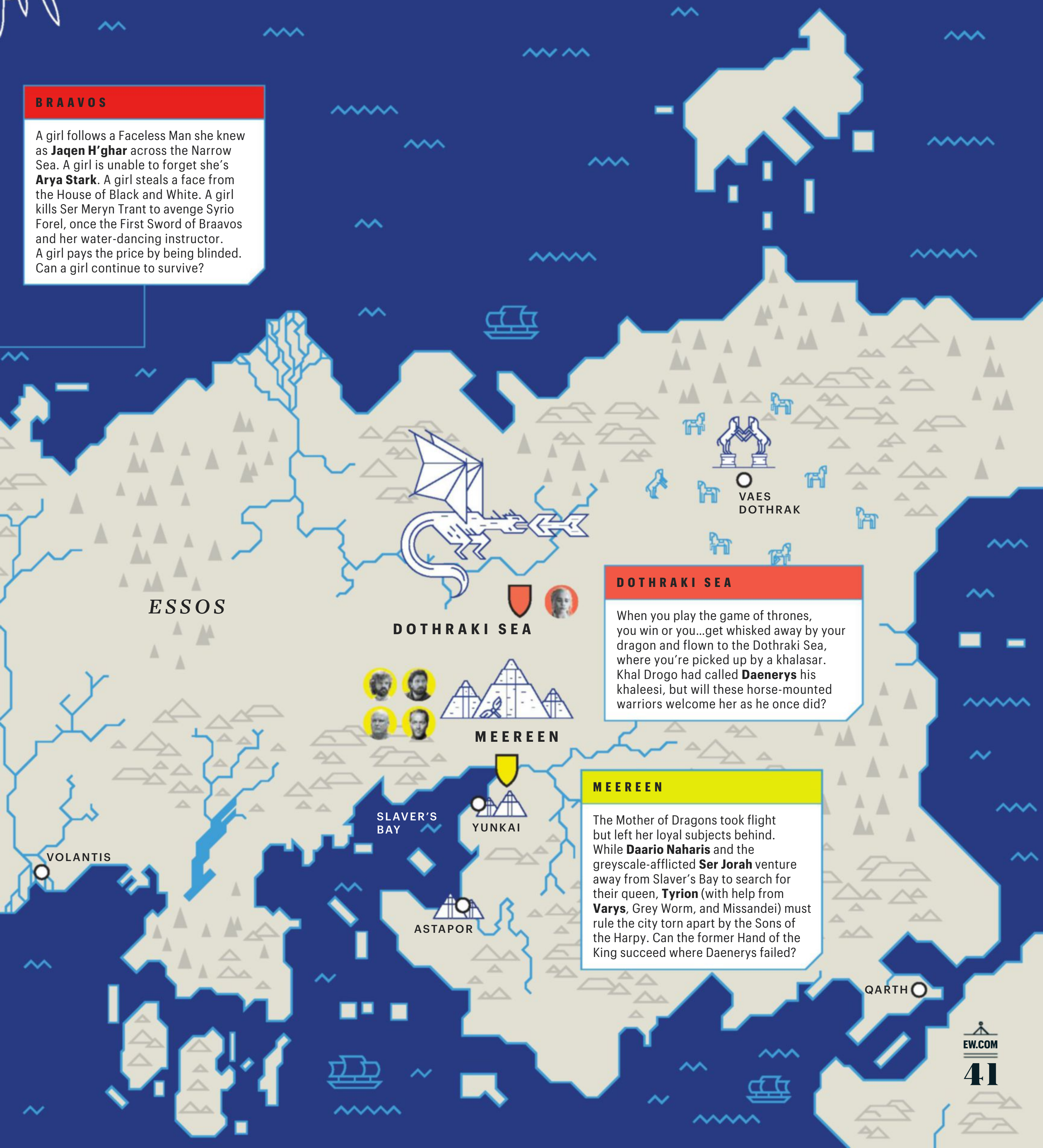
The last time we saw **Cersei**, she had just finished her nude walk of atonement after being in the slammer for her (shame... shame...) shameful ways. But her return to the Red Keep might be too late: With **Margaery**'s continued imprisonment, **Jaime**'s failure to rescue his daughter-niece in Dorne, and the **High Sparrow**'s faithful flock in charge, even **Littlefinger** would struggle to reverse the Lannisters' fortune. Is it too much to ask of young **King Tommen** to find a way to save the realm *and* keep Ser Pounce satisfied?

GAME OF THRONES HEADS: HELEN SLOAN/HBO (21); MACALL B. POLAY/HBO (5)

the KEY to the KINGDOMS

WHERE IN WESTEROS (AND ESSOS) WE LAST SAW ALL THE KEY PLAYERS

By **SHIRLEY LI** *Map Illustration by* **RELAJAELCOCO**



BRAAVOS

A girl follows a Faceless Man she knew as **Jaqen H'ghar** across the Narrow Sea. A girl is unable to forget she's **Arya Stark**. A girl steals a face from the House of Black and White. A girl kills Ser Meryn Trant to avenge Syrio Forel, once the First Sword of Braavos and her water-dancing instructor. A girl pays the price by being blinded. Can a girl continue to survive?

DOTHRAKI SEA

When you play the game of thrones, you win or you…get whisked away by your dragon and flown to the Dothraki Sea, where you're picked up by a khalasar. Khal Drogo had called **Daenerys** his khaleesi, but will these horse-mounted warriors welcome her as he once did?

MEEREEN

The Mother of Dragons took flight but left her loyal subjects behind. While **Daario Naharis** and the greyscale-afflicted **Ser Jorah** venture away from Slaver's Bay to search for their queen, **Tyrion** (with help from **Varys**, Grey Worm, and Missandei) must rule the city torn apart by the Sons of the Harpy. Can the former Hand of the King succeed where Daenerys failed?

Inside the GREAT & Secret show

FROM MUDDY NORTHERN IRELAND TO ARID SOUTHERN SPAIN, WE WENT BEHIND THE

GAME OF THRONES

Alfie Allen and
Sophie Turner
on the set of the
new season

SCENES OF THE MOST MYSTERIOUS SEASON YET. *By* **JAMES HIBBERD**

Fury mayhem, CARNAGE.

Two armies clashing beside a towering pile of dead bodies; a storm of clanging swords that fill the breadth of your vision amid raging screams and black smoke; thick mud and shifting horses. When standing so close to the chaos of war, your eyes are pulled toward dozens of lethal conflicts at once, and you feel this strange electrical charge. This action might all be for the cameras, rehearsed and safe, but watching hundreds of warriors emitting so much raw emotion while fighting to survive thrums a resonant subwoofer chord deep inside you—a primal contact high that lights up a rarely used strand of ancestral DNA. This is battle.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT
Maisie Williams; Emilia Clarke; director Jeremy Podeswa with Nikolaj Coster-Waldau on set

WILLIAMS, PODESWA AND COSTER-WALDAU: HELEN SLOAN/HBO (2); CLARKE: MACALL B. POLAY/HBO

AND YET, AS SPECTACULAR AS THE VIOLENCE SEEMS, the take wasn't perfect. Not perfect enough. And when you're creating the greatest war sequence in the history of *Game of Thrones*, every single person on set is expected to deliver.

"Who's new on the shields?!" screams the production's military adviser scornfully at the actors forming one army's defensive line. "No one is! That was s---! The shields should not move!"

Which armies are fighting, you ask? We can't say. What characters are involved? Can't tell you that. Where is this battle taking place? Um, why don't we talk about you? In the name of secrecy, the usual basics of reporting—who, what, when, where, why, and how—are being shoved out the window like Bran Stark.

With its upcoming sixth season, the HBO series is firmly surpassing the published narrative of George R.R. Martin's five A Song of Ice and Fire novels, and this battle has us treading in spoilers as deep as the mud. Showrunners David Benioff and Dan Weiss want fans to be just like Jon Snow, knowing nothing (oh, and there's not much we can say about him, either, other than "He's dead"—and we bet you've heard that once or twice already?).

Here is what the producers *will* say about the new season, and it's rather exciting given their reluctance to use hyperbole: "Usually there's an episode or two we're kind of nervous about, ones that didn't turn out as well as we hoped," Benioff says. "This season there is not a weak episode.... We're always reluctant to say it's the 'best season yet' because so much of that is in the eye of the beholder. But that's my sense—this is the best one we've done. And it's the one I'm proudest of, because it was the hardest."

Hardest partly because it was the longest *Thrones* shoot yet, including more days spent creating action scenes than ever before. The mysterious battle—directed by Miguel Sapochnik, who won widespread praise last season for staging the Jon Snow vs. White Walkers showdown in "Hardhome"—represents the show's first-ever attempt at doing what producers call "a proper battle"; as in, there are hundreds of human soldiers on one side of a field and another army on the other side, with a classical campaign of engagement that is highly tactical and shown from start to finish. You know, Roman army stuff. "We wondered why don't you

Peter Dinklage and Conleth Hill

see more fully fleshed-out battles in movies and TV, then you get into the nitty-gritty of what it takes to actually shoot these things in a way that isn't just helter-skelter chaos but actually gives you a sense of battle geography and the ebb and flow, and you realize why," Weiss says.

The battle alone took about a month to shoot, but tallying how many total "days" *Thrones* filmed for season 6 isn't that simple because two production units often film in different locations at the same time. So some days resulted in two days of footage. This season also took the rare step of using three units at once. And then, for nearly two insane weeks, the team went into unprecedented backbreaking overdrive by having four units shooting at the same time. The showrunners were able to persuade their crew to go along with this by promising they would never ask them to do it again. "It isn't easy and isn't fun. It's really hard, but everybody rose to the challenge," Weiss says.

And the rock slide didn't help. Early into production, the Magheramorne quarry in Northern Ireland, which houses the Castle Black set, received so much rain it altered the walls' "seismic profile," as experts later euphemistically explained to the producers. "Once people saw the small pebbles start to come down that turned into slightly larger pebbles, everybody made the group decision to immediately step away from the set," Weiss recounts drily (or as Alliser Thorne actor Owen Teale put it: "A piece of rock the size of a London townhouse just *fell*"). Nobody was hurt, but it meant having to drastically rework the entire season's byzantine shooting schedule on the fly.

Yet what really sets season 6 apart is not the show's difficulty—*Thrones* has never been easy—but that this is the first completely secret season. When Martin announced in January that his next book, *The Winds of Winter*, would not be released by the time *Thrones* returns on April 24, the news was a silver lining for a production that took giant steps to keep its new season under wraps. "People are talking about whether the books are going to be spoiled, and it's really not true," Benioff says. "So much of what we're doing diverges from the books at this point. And while there are certain key elements that will be the same, we're not going to talk so much about that and I don't think George is either. People are still going to be very surprised."

MACALL B. POLAY/HBO

The extreme secrecy was made more urgent when the first four episodes of season 5 surfaced online before the series premiered last year, not to mention other footage that prematurely leaked from HBO's international partners during the season. Turns out HBO's fan-friendly goal of making the drama available worldwide on the same day for the first time resulted in too many assets falling into too many hands. "It was really painful," says HBO programming president Michael Lombardo. "We spent a lot of time thinking about it and implementing new security plans."

And so: Fewer people received scripts this season. Press won't get advance screeners. HBO's affiliates worldwide can expect to get content much closer to airtime. Even internally on the show, the "circle of trust" was tightened—code words were routinely used to describe certain scenes or characters, even by the showrunners themselves. "It's like protecting your house," Benioff says. "You make it as hard as possible for burglars in hopes they look for some other house to burgle, but it's impossible to ever completely secure your house." Quips Weiss: "Go burgle *The Walking Dead*."

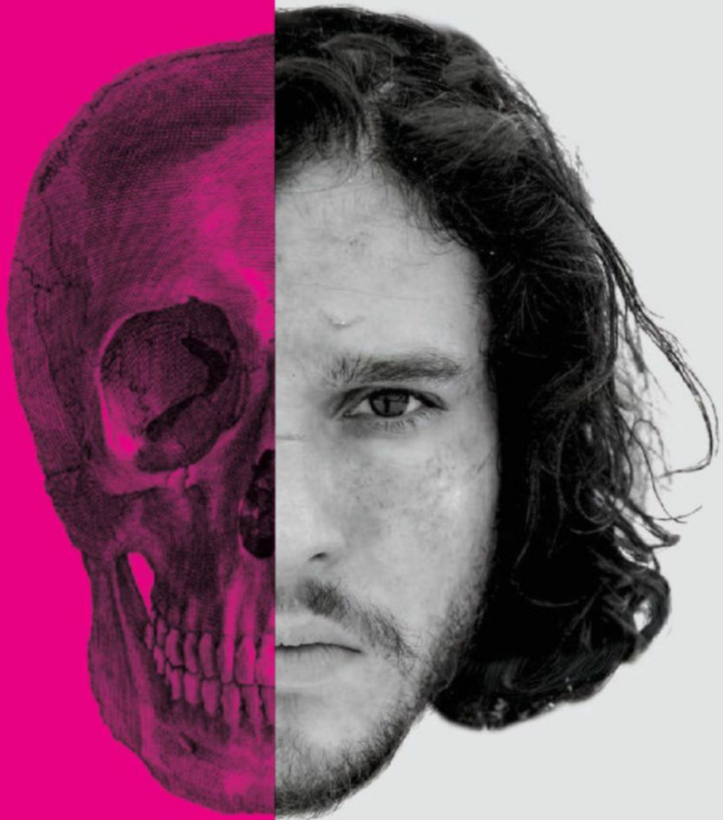
Hiding plot points led to a few awkward moments with the cast along the way. "So we're doing the table read with all the actors and [writer-producer] Bryan Cogman is reading the stage directions," Benioff recalls, "and it gets to this scene where [a character is killed off] and the actor goes, 'Nooooooo!!!' We're like, 'Ah, f---, we forgot to tell them.'"

Just doing interviews with the cast for this piece required added caution too. To speak to Isaac Hempstead-Wright, whose Bran Stark is returning this season after a year on the bench, we ended up in a London hotel's cramped computer room so as to not be overheard in the crowded lobby. While chatting with Alfie Allen (Theon Greyjoy) at his dinner club, we suddenly halted mid-interview because a waitress kept wiping down the fireplace mantel next to us. "She's been cleaning that for a long time," Allen whispered suspiciously.

Even with the show's secrecy tactics, some spoilers still leaked. "One guy hiked 18 hours on foot in the middle of Spain's

HARINGTON: HELEN SLOAN/HBO

✦ Kristen Bell (@*IMKristenBell*) and Dax Shepard (@*daxshepard*1)



Snow PATROL

HOW THE *THRONES* CAST ANSWERS *THAT* QUESTION

By JAMES HIBBERD

"If I had one dollar for every time I'd been asked that question in the last year," sighs actor Kristian Nairn (Hodor), "I would be a very rich person." That question is, of course, whether Jon Snow is still alive. The Night's Watch Lord Commander, played by Kit Harington, was betrayed and killed in the season 5 finale and appears as a corpse in the new season. Here's a sampling of *Thrones* actors revealing how they answer curious media, family, friends, and fans.

MAISIE WILLIAMS

"My answer is: 'Yeah, he's dead.'"

NIKOLAJ COSTER-WALDAU

"'He's dead.' It's not hard—because he's dead."

EMILIA CLARKE

"It's frustrating. People want him to be alive so much, you could just exhale and they'll find a way to say, 'That means Jon Snow's alive.'"

LENA HEADEY

"'If I told you, I'd have to kill you.' Or I just laugh."

CONLETH HILL

"You saw him die, so why you asking me?"

LIAM CUNNINGHAM

"I say, 'Yeah, he's dead, he's f---ing dead.' And people get angry about it!"

ILLUSTRATION BY **CHAD HAGEN**

La Mancha desert to take pictures," Weiss explains. "Another guy in Northern Ireland crawled through the mud and did his own little private commando mission." On the Hollywood spoiler tolerance spectrum, Benioff and Weiss rank up there with *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* director J.J. Abrams in their desire to keep their mystery box shut, and while their dispositions are typically unflappable, the leaked images manage to rile. "I just want to point out that guy's an a--hole," Benioff says of one of the paparazzi infiltrators. "You're not cool for doing that, you're an a--hole."

That said: So, um, what is coming this season anyway? (Aside from winter.) "Last season we left our central characters in huge moments of crisis and at their lowest points; this has them trying to rebuild their lives," says Cogman. "There are a lot of thematic and explicit callbacks to the seasons that preceded this one, including season 1, with characters meeting in hopefully very unexpected ways. Characters who were once rivals are being forced to work together."

So here's what we can tell you: When the season begins, Daenerys (Emilia Clarke) struggles as a Dothraki captive, which not only returns the braided-and-loinclothed nomadic warriors to the show but also depicts their way of life with season-6-level production values (the show easily costs north of $10 million per episode at this point—not that you'll hear HBO complain). Sansa Stark (Sophie Turner) tries to escape the clutches of Ramsay Bolton (Iwan Rheon) and hopes to reclaim Winterfell. Arya (Maisie Williams) is blind and living on the streets of Braavos, where she encounters a traveling band of actors putting on a play that depicts a skewed version of the Westeros palace intrigue we've been

Max von Sydow as the Three-Eyed Raven

NEW to the GAME ?

CAN'T TELL YOUR TYRELLS FROM YOUR MARTELLS? CHECK OUR MINI-BINGE OF THE 10 ESSENTIAL EPISODES, AND YOU CAN AT LEAST PRETEND TO KNOW WHO GHOST IS.

By **DARREN FRANICH**

"WINTER IS COMING"

SEASON 1 ◆ EP. 1

The series premiere is a confusing but crucial info dump of crisscrossing family ties and incesty shenanigans that define Westeros. Plus, there's that White Walker tease we're catching up to years later. Just don't get too attached to anyone.

"FIRE AND BLOOD"

SEASON 1 ◆ EP. 10

With King Robert and Ned Stark out of the picture, we get a clear vision of the show's real power dynamics. Meet the King in the North, watch Arya go on the run, and witness the birth of the Mother of Dragons.

"BLACKWATER"

SEASON 2 ◆ EP. 9

Don't like long strategy sessions? Cut straight to the spectacular climax of season 2, when rebel king Stannis launches an attack on the mainland. It's the best-ever King's Landing episode, paying generous attention to Tyrion's cerebral heroics, Cersei's fatalism, and Joffrey's cowardice. Plus: Things go boom!

"KISSED BY FIRE"

SEASON 3 ◆ EP. 5

A crucial pivot point. Dany gains an army, while Robb loses half of his. And in a bathtub, Jaime Lannister recounts how

BRAKE: HBO; SYDOW, DINKLAGE, FAIRLEY AND BEAN: HELEN SLOAN/HBO (3)

CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT Richard Brake as the Night's King; Dinklage; Michelle Fairley and Sean Bean

he became a Kingslayer—the moment when the show's baddie turns into its bruised soul.

"THE RAINS OF CASTAMERE"

SEASON 3 ◆ EP. 9

Getting confused by all these characters? Good news: It's time for a wedding! The #RedWedding episode resets the power structure of Westeros in a few bloody minutes. (Also, Dany conquers Yunkai. Whenever you don't see Dany, it's a good bet she's off conquering somewhere.)

"THE LION AND THE ROSE"

SEASON 4 ◆ EP. 2

Blood Wedding No. 2 unites half the remaining cast for a memorable afternoon in King's Landing, which joins two powerful families and kills yet another king. It also firmly establishes Ramsay Snow as the show's neo-Joffrey, a devious freak bent on turning the North into his own *Hellraiser*.

"THE LAWS OF GODS AND MEN"

SEASON 4 ◆ EP. 6

Tyrion tried to live up to his family name, and tried to protect his country—even if his family and his countrymen hated him. So his angry speech in this episode isn't just a showcase of Peter Dinklage. It's a repudiation of the whole Westeros society. And it's all chaos from here.

"THE WATCHERS ON THE WALL"

SEASON 4 ◆ EP. 9

What "Blackwater" was for King's Landing, "Watchers" is for the Wall. When the Wildlings attack Castle Black, Jon Snow has to organize his misfit brethren and defend, well, the entire civilized world. Currently one of the show's most expensive episodes (mammoth-riding giants ain't cheap).

"HARDHOME"

SEASON 5 ◆ EP. 8

Two long-teased story lines take center stage. Renegade Tyrion finally talks to rebel Empress Daenerys, while Jon Snow gets his first real look at the White Walker terror. If the White Walkers are the Final Boss of *Game of Thrones*, this episode could be a preview of the series finale.

"THE DANCE OF DRAGONS"

SEASON 5 ◆ EP. 9

Look, you should just watch the whole show. But the one benefit of watching only the episodes on this list: You can skip straight through years of Dany very gradually building an empire out east. And remember that little dragon you met in "Fire and Blood"? He's all grown up.

watching on the show (allowing for some witty meta-commentary). Bran Stark, perhaps most intriguingly, will use his newfound powers to literally step into scenes from the past and present of the story. Jaime Lannister (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau) and Cersei (Lena Headey) reunite and will uneasily unify to try to put down the Faith Militant's power coup. Let's see, what else? There's some Iron Islands action, there's some Dorne (yup, the Sand Snakes are back)...

And, oh yes, there's that one guy, Jon Snow (Kit Harington).

The Lord Commander's stabbing last year at the hand of his Night's Watch brothers rocked *Thrones* fans all the way up to a concerned President Obama. Everybody associated with the network and show insists the character is dead (in the season 6 trailer, now viewed more than 58 million times, Harington appears as a corpse). The entire *Thrones* team is eager for fans to see the premiere, if only so they will stop being asked about Jon Snow. "My wife has been threatening me for years: 'If you kill Jon Snow, I'm going to divorce you,'" says Benioff of actress Amanda Peet (*Togetherness*). "So the potential dissolution of my family is something I have to live with every day."

Benioff says this while commanding the show's set in a Spanish desert, where the country's armed forces guard the perimeter. On a distant cliff, soldiers hold back fans who drove to the middle of nowhere to try to get a glimpse of the action. That seems fitting: As producers maneuver their fictional kingdoms' armies, it takes a nation's actual army to protect the secrets of *Game of Thrones*.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE...

Our exclusive *Game of Thrones* coverage doesn't stop here! On EW.com we'll have ongoing in-depth interviews with the show's stars and talks with the showrunners. Not to mention our episode recaps when the new season launches on April 24, videos from the set, and a new morning-after podcast with James Hibberd and Darren Franich that will become your latest addiction. Follow @JamesHibberd for all the latest updates, and for the biggest headlines delivered to your inbox, subscribe to our *Thrones* newsletter at **ew.com/gotnewsletter**.

Ellie Kemper

THIS SCHMIDT IS BANANAS

AS THE CULT HIT **UNBREAKABLE KIMMY SCHMIDT** RETURNS FOR ITS SECOND SEASON, **EW** GOES ON SET TO WATCH THE WORLD'S MOST RESILIENT MOLE WOMAN AND HER DYSFUNCTIONAL FOUND FAMILY FACE A BRAND-NEW BARRAGE OF BONKERS.

BY MARC SNETIKER @marcsnetiker

Kemper and Tituss Burgess

Not to burst your bubble, but life on the set of *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* isn't all babies, kitties, and rainbows. The vibe here at the Brooklyn home of Netflix's charming sleeper comedy about a cult escapee (Ellie Kemper) readjusting to the real world is decidedly, appropriately grittier: Really, it's more like toddlers (Jane Krakowski's 4-year-old son, Bennett) chasing puppies (Tituss Burgess' new rescue dog, Hans) down neon blue and green hallways.

Call it the Kimmy Schmidt effect, whereby the radiant presence of Kemper's 30-going-on-13 protagonist shines over the buoyant set, the cynical-turned-sunny characters, and the viewers who made the series a fast favorite (and, thanks to its catchy music, an exercise in Internet virality) when it debuted on Netflix last March. With the bingeable season 2 inbound on April 15, the cast and creators are relishing the blazing confidence they've found now that the world has met Tina Fey and Robert Carlock's wild, wonderful creation.

The show follows the adventures of Kimmy Schmidt, a sweet Midwesterner who was held captive for 15 years in an underground cult and escapes to New York City stunted and in search of the teenage years she missed. Kemper, who gained recognition in season 5 of *The Office*, has never headlined a show, let alone one developed especially for her by the creators of *30 Rock*; just as Kimmy is conquering new frontiers, so is Kemper acclimating to life as the face of a buzzy hit. "It was very hard doing the show for a year and then not seeing it, not knowing how people reacted, not even knowing if it would be on TV," says Kemper, 35. (*Kimmy* was slated to air on NBC in spring 2015 but was shuffled over to Netflix.) "Coming back for season 2, there's a very motivating, positive feeling knowing a tone has been struck that's resonating with people. The first year was kind of like giving birth—maybe awkward? And painful? But never bloody!" Burgess, who plays Kimmy's stylish diva roommate Titus, offers a different metaphor: "The house is built; now you've got to go pick out furniture and arrange for a housewarming party."

The atmosphere on season 2 isn't quite a party but more like a high school graduation when you haven't yet declared a major: Kemper's character has largely left the trauma of her childhood abduction in the past, and she has nowhere to go but forward—quite literally, as a three-month time jump in the premiere ignites the season with a lightning round of absurd scenarios that the first eight episodes will build toward (art theft, Santa Claus, and a jilted wife all play a role). Kimmy's continued epiphanies about the essence of adulthood will manifest in new milestones (She gets her learner's permit...), new careers (...to be an Uber driver!), and new mistakes—like what happens when she pursues a married man. "She has ideas about boys that are very teenage and not fully formed, but it's similar to anyone who didn't date in college or come out until their 20s," reasons Kemper. "You're discovering dating for the first time, and she has certain ideas in her head."

The season opener also immediately resolves last year's cliff-hangers (like the appearance of Titus'—gasp—ex-wife) and introduces the overarching theme of Kimmy Schmidt's second outing: Damage isn't limited to those who have been kidnapped and held in a bunker. Every main character gets their share of illuminating flashbacks, like *30 Rock* meets *Lost* by way of *Sex and the City*. "Heading into this season knowing that we were on Netflix, we did feel like we could play with time more," says co-creator Carlock. "Everyone has their past, people have their 'bunkers.' [Tina and I] wanted a show that was about how what's happened to you before plays out now and what it does to your ability to find happiness and success in the future."

For some, the past offers something to be recaptured: Nutjob landlady Lillian (Carol Kane) will combat gentrification and try to restore her beloved neighborhood to its former glory, while Krakowski's recently divorced socialite Jacqueline stoops to new lows to regain the highs of the wealth and social status she lost in her divorce.

For Titus, whose escape from Mississippi is explored in the season premiere, his journey is one of reinvention: A promising love story will dominate his arc this year, thanks to a lucky gentleman (whom viewers briefly met in season 1) who gets the outlandish wannabe superstar to strip away those emotional pashminas. "We learn why Titus puts up such a fight, why there's a guard to keep people from getting into the Emerald City," says Burgess. "It's so strange to watch him put someone else's feelings first, and that's been a bit of recalibrating that I didn't anticipate. You catch glimpses of him and you go, '*Oh!* There's actually somebody living inside of this emperor.'"

But it's still Kimmy, the show's optimistic heartbeat, who will once again endure

Burgess shines in the viral video for "Peeno Noir"

PEENO, PART 2?

IN SEASON 1, Titus' hyper-absurd music video "Peeno Noir" became a sensation—so much so, the video's clocked almost 1.5 million views on YouTube, and even inspired Burgess to release his own brand of wine in real life. "I'm just waiting by the mailbox for my check," jokes Carlock, who teases the Titus tune this season that may knock "Peeno" off its reigning Internet pedestal. "I'm hoping the viral song is one that Titus, while in a feverish fugue, sings about teeth," he says. "It might be my favorite thing. It's going to be fun and funny and bright and horrifying. A mixed tone—these things where they sound like they shouldn't be funny—might be what Tina and I have just decided is what we do now." Hmm...what rhymes with "teeth"?

Kemper and co-creator/writer Tina Fey on set during a break in shooting

(PREVIOUS SPREAD AND THIS SPREAD) ERIC LIEBOWITZ/NETFLIX (4)

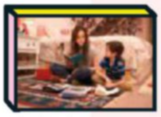
THE MUST LIST:

SPECIAL KIMMY SCHMIDT EDITION!

THE SHOW'S CHARACTERS (COUGH, *WRITERS**, COUGH)
CHOOSE THEIR POP CULTURE FAVES

KIMMY SCHMIDT

1 | MOVIES



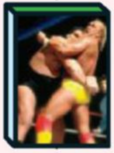
Room
Brie Larson was so good, but where were the jokes?! Also, *10 Cloverfield Lane*—John Goodman was so scary, but where were the jokes?!

2 | TV

Mr. Robot
I really want to see this show I keep hearing about. He sounds so fancy, like he's a robot with a briefcase! I'd be like, "Good day, *Mr.* Robot! The weather is just splendid, yes? Give my best to *Mrs.* Robot, won't you?" Hey, I wonder if he's related to *Mr.* Belvedere?

...but DON'T watch *The Bachelor*
Some reverend gets to tongue-down dozens of women trapped in a big house?! We gotta find that house and free those girls!

3 | MUSIC



Hulk Hogan's sax tape
I haven't heard it yet, but I love the Hulkster, and I love saxophone music!

JACQUELINE VOORHEES

1 | BOOKS

Simple Times: Crafts for Poor People, by Amy Sedaris
I've really had to adjust my lifestyle since I left Julian.

2 | MOVIES

The Big Short
I watched for the man candy. In the last 10 minutes of the movie, all those characters become *soooo* hot.

3 | THEATER

She Loves Me
That Jane Krakowski is a national treasure!

4 | TV

The Real Housewives of New York City
I love getting a deeper insight into all these amazing women I've shared numbing gel with at the laser place.

TITUS ANDROMEDON

1 | MUSIC

Rihanna
A Rihanna song I taped off the radio that is called either "Wer" or "Der." I cannot tell.

2 | BOOKS

The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up, by Marie Kondo
Once a year I go through all my clothes, and if they don't "spark joy" in me, I hang them back on that fence where I found them.

3 | TV

The People v. O.J. Simpson
'Cause I did not have a TV the first time around, and I want to see how this case turned out!

4 | THEATER

Definitely NOT *Hamilton*
That boy stole my idea of doing a Broadway show about wearing vests!

LILLIAN KAUSHTUPPER

1 | TV

HGTV's *Renovation Raiders*
As a landlord, it's great to see people as committed to shoddy workmanship as I am.

2 | MUSIC

Pandora
I have a channel called "Son of Sam." It's mostly '70s disco and the occasional Trump press conference.

3 | MOVIES

Carol
It happened pretty much just like they show in the movie, except I ended up shooting her husband.

4 | SOCIAL MEDIA

JDate
There's nothing like the look on a nice Jewish boy's face when he realizes he's been catfished. And they're usually too polite to leave before I score myself a free boilermaker.

*TINA FEY, ROBERT CARLOCK, SAM MEANS, AND MEREDITH SCARDINO

Carol Kane and Burgess

the most emotional twists, especially as she embarks on a quest to reconnect with her mother. “Kimmy is incomplete in a lot of ways, and her belief that everything’s going to be okay is not always true—you can’t get everything you want just because you believe in yourself, and that includes family,” says Carlock. “There was a subtext in the first season that her family was clearly not functional, and after season 1, we found the tone and the confidence to tackle those heavy things in heavy ways.”

Short of spoiling which beloved TV comedy icon landed the role of Mommy Schmidt, there are plenty of other guest stars who will invade Kimmy’s kooky world this year, including Anna Camp as Jacqueline’s rival debutante, *Girls*’ Zosia Mamet as a meddling hipster, and *Saturday Night Live* alum Fred Armisen as Lillian’s former flame, who happens to be based on a very real, very infamous person. “Everyone was obsessed with *The Jinx* when we sat down to write,” reveals Carlock. “Tina really insisted that the overlap between these two New York eccentrics was just too good.”

Fey’s influence is also felt in the way *Kimmy* bears the same rich comedic inanity and frenetic non sequiturs as her critical darling *30 Rock*. Much of the same crew is employed on *Kimmy*, along with its music supervisor (Fey’s husband, Jeff Richmond) and star Krakowski. “When I took the part I had no idea what they were going to write, but I knew I wanted to work with them again,” says Krakowski, who swapped vapid actress Jenna Maroney for vapid socialite Jacqueline. “It felt like a homecoming, and I’m sure that’s due to the Tina Fey effect of the types of people she hires, that we all match up in our spirit and humor.”

The season has also upped its quota of musical moments for the gang, which are fast becoming a signature of the series. “I have a lovely song with Tituss that I was so nervous to do because that voice sets such a high bar,” says Kane, alluding to Burgess’ soaring soprano in last year’s “Peeno Noir” (see sidebar). But unfortunately, not everyone gets to feel the rhythm, says Carlock: “The bitter irony is that we think Jacqueline can’t sing, so poor Jane”—a Tony-winning musical star—“has to just sit there and listen to everyone else.”

But perhaps Krakowski will get another attempt at song and dance next year, as the show has already been renewed for season 3 by Netflix. Given its strong embrace at last year’s Emmy Awards—where it garnered seven nominations, including one for Outstanding Comedy Series—there looks to be no shortage of attention this year. By all measures, *Kimmy Schmidt* isn’t just *Unbreakable* but unstoppable.

Carlock laughs when asked whether the series will end when Kimmy finally “gets it”—that is, when she’s fully adapted to the mean and modern world. “Maybe?” he considers. “Either when she gets it or when she proves the whole world wrong.” But she might be catching on sooner than later, at least based on what happens here on the trendy Greenpoint set, where Kemper ventures off-soundstage in Kimmy’s so-retro-it’s-hip costume. “I go out to get coffee here in bright green pants and a turquoise top, and nobody looks twice,” she says. “Maybe I’m a hipster now!” Baby steps, Kimmy. Baby steps. ◆

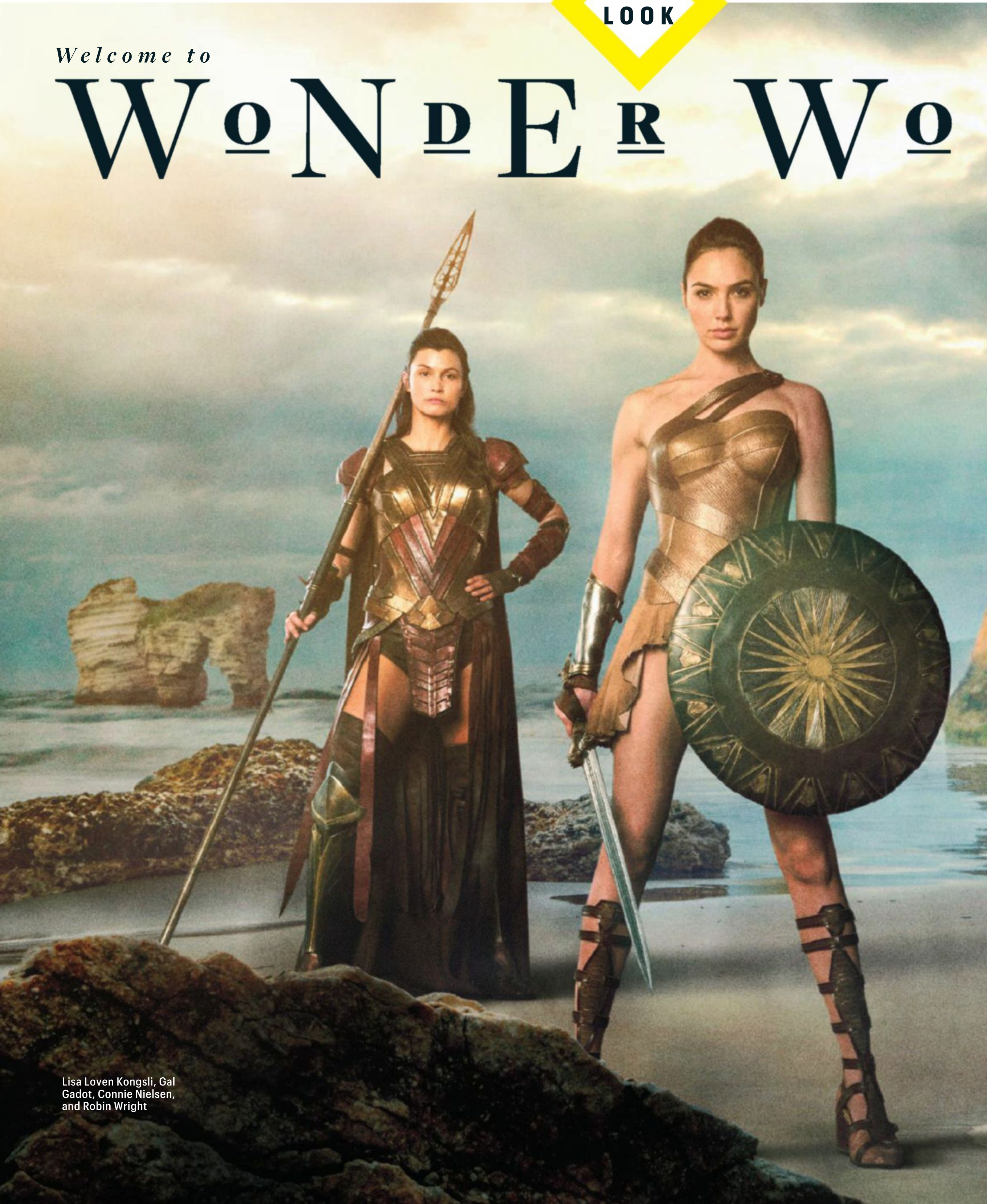
Jane Krakowski

(OPPOSITE PAGE) CHARACTERS: MATTHIAS CLAMER/NETFLIX (4); *ROOM*: GEORGE KRAYCHYK; HOGAN: WWE; *SHE LOVES ME*: JOAN MARCUS; *CAROL*: WILSON WEBB; (THIS PAGE) ERIC LIEBOWITZ/NETFLIX (2)

FIRST LOOK

Welcome to

WONDER WO



Lisa Loven Kongsli, Gal Gadot, Connie Nielsen, and Robin Wright

MAN ISLAND

Meet the warriors—including Robin Wright and Connie Nielsen—who will transform Princess Diana (Gal Gadot) into the most powerful female superhero of all time.

NICOLE SPERLING *@NICSPERLING*

THEMYSCIRA is a hidden island where Amazonian women of Greek myth have thrived for centuries, living in harmony and free to self-govern away from the gaze of man. It's also, of course, the birthplace of Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot), who after years of false starts is finally a movie star. With a much-heralded introduction in *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, the heroine is now a cornerstone in Warner Bros.' DC Comics multiverse, with a crucial role in the first Justice League movie (out November 2017), and the center of her own long-awaited film, which will hit screens June 2017. Directed by Patty Jenkins (*Monster*), *Wonder Woman* will be an origin story illustrating the transformation of a young Princess Diana into the greatest female warrior ever.

She will need some help getting there, though. Preparing her for a world of men are three regal women: Diana's mother, Queen Hippolyta (*Gladiator*'s Connie Nielsen), and her two military aunts—General Antiope (Robin Wright) and Antiope's lieutenant, Menalippe (*Force Majeure*'s Lisa Loven Kongsli). This trio of immortals is responsible for both raising and training Diana—the only child on this estrogen-heavy isle—but they don't always agree. Hippolyta, a revolutionary leader, longs to shelter her beloved daughter from the outside world, but Antiope, the Amazonian responsible for Diana's training, wants to prepare her. "She is the only child they raised together," says Jenkins, calling from outside London, where she is deep into the film's production. "And their love for her manifests in a different way for each of them."

To create Themyscira, Jenkins and her team used exotic islands off the coasts of Italy and southern China to enhance the otherworldliness of scenes filmed on Italy's Amalfi Coast. Still, designing a fantastical place proved challenging. Every decision about it, she says, came back to a central question: "How would I want to live that's badass?" That question also dictated the Amazonians' battle gear. "To me, they shouldn't be dressed in armor like men," Jenkins says. "It should be different. It should be authentic and real—and appealing to women."

Jenkins and her costume designer, Lindy Hemming (*The Dark Knight*), crafted a look that showed off the women's ripped shoulders and toned legs, in outfits that appeared practical but still featured the tropes of the comic book, in particular the braces on their wrists and, yes, even the high heels. Jenkins defends the impractical footwear. "It's total wish-fulfillment," she says, adding that the warriors have flats for heavy fighting. "I, as a woman, want Wonder Woman to be hot as hell, fight badass, and look great at the same time—the same way men want Superman to have huge pecs and an impractically big body. That makes them feel like the hero they want to be. And my hero, in my head, has really long legs."

STARS

EW/PEOPLE
EXCLUSIVE

Before *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* slammed into theaters this week, Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill, and the A-list cast gathered for a little pre-battle prep.

▸▸▸ You're looking at the nucleus of a DC Comics Big Bang. *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* finally hit theaters March 25, and from it a whole universe of new films will expand—including 2017's *Justice League*. It all begins

(PREVIOUS SPREAD) CLAY ENOS/ DC COMICS

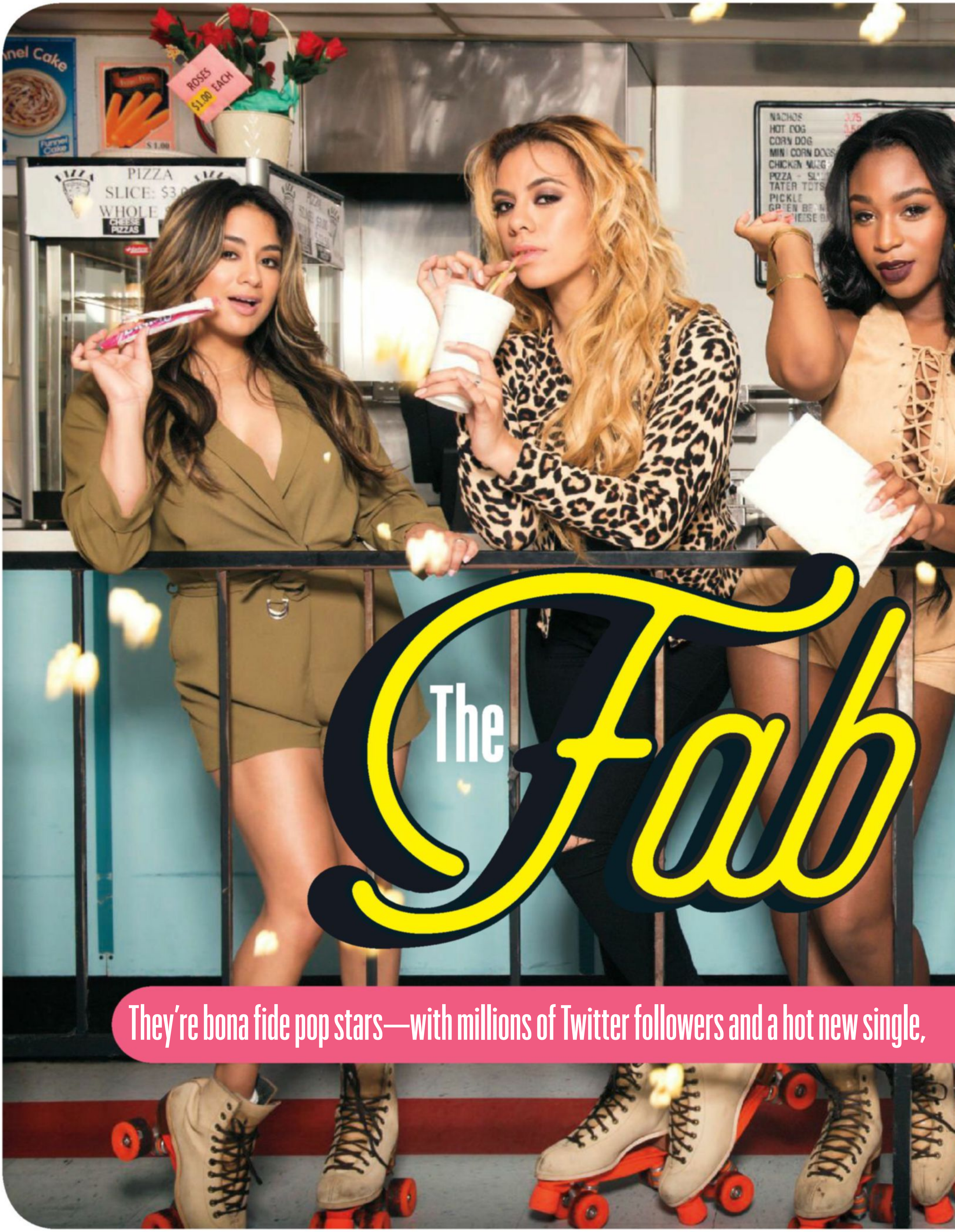
PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER YANG

OF JUSTICE

◀ (*Clockwise from top left*) Holly Hunter, Jesse Eisenberg, Diane Lane, Zack Snyder, Laurence Fishburne, Amy Adams, Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot, and Ben Affleck

here. "Sometimes you can box yourself in [with too many characters]," says director Zack Snyder. "But what's the upside of that? How do you make that challenge be the thing that makes it cooler than [any hero] could have been on his own?"

In *BvS*, we'll not only see a clash of DC's two greatest heroes, played by Ben Affleck and Henry Cavill, but also Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman, marking the character's first live-action appearance in 75 years, and Jesse Eisenberg's creepy interpretation of Lex Luthor. Holly Hunter joins the cast as Senator Finch, whose superpower is a deep skepticism about these supposed good guys. Returning veterans of 2013's *Man of Steel* include Amy Adams as Lois Lane, Diane Lane as Martha Kent, and Laurence Fishburne as *Daily Planet* editor Perry White. *BvS* also features a few surprise appearances—no spoilers here—but expect to see much more of those characters in the years ahead.
—*Anthony Breznican*


Funnel Cake
ROSES $1.00 EACH
PIZZA SLICE: $3
WHOLE
CHEESE PIZZAS
NACHOS
HOT DOG
CORN DOG
MINI CORN DOGS
CHICKEN NUGG
PIZZA - SL
TATER TOTS
PICKLE
GREEN BEAN
CHEESE B

The Fab

They're bona fide pop stars—with millions of Twitter followers and a hot new single,

Ally Brooke Hernandez, Dinah Jane Hansen, Normani Kordei, Camila Cabello, and Lauren Jauregui photographed at the Moonlight Rollerway in Glendale, Calif., on March 11, 2016

Five

"Work From Home"—but can FIFTH HARMONY become the female One Direction?

BY Darren Franich *@DarrenFranich*
PHOTOGRAPHS BY Chris McPherson

On A RECENT CLOUDY DAY IN LOS ANGELES, Fifth Harmony are crammed together in the back of an SUV. It's been a chaotic day for the women—Ally Brooke Hernandez, Camila Cabello, Dinah Jane Hansen, Normani Kordei, and Lauren Jauregui—as they've been speeding around for interviews to promote their new single "Work From Home." Just minutes before, they made their way through their hotel lobby, obliging eager Harmonizers with selfies. One of those fans was wearing a Britney Spears T-shirt. And it's a fitting sight considering the pop star was a judge on the season of *The X Factor* that introduced the quintet—and also because when Spears released her debut single, "...Baby One More Time," in 1998, the average age of the Fifth Harmony members was 2 years old.

These days, the ladies range from 18 to 22, and like Spears before them, they've already lived a couple of pop lifetimes. If you don't know who Fifth Harmony are, well, Dad, that's understandable, but you definitely know their songs. The group's 2015 single "Worth It"—the one with that squeaky saxophone hook—was the summer's inescapable radio hit and reached No. 12 on *Billboard*'s Hot 100. And last month they returned with "Work From Home," the lead single off their upcoming album. The track has become an instant hit: 40 million Spotify streams, heavy rotation on Top 40 radio, and a slick video featuring sultry choreography and buff construction workers.

Yet in the back of the SUV with the women, you wouldn't know they're huge stars. They modestly insist that dancing—a desired trait for many of our pop icons—is a new skill for them. Eternally optimistic Dinah claims she has three left feet, while Camila insists she's the only Cuban on Earth who can't dance. As contestants on *The X Factor* in 2012, Fifth Harmony are the very definition of a prefab group. Sure, that term sounds judgy, but the women are now trying to answer the same question that's faced every made-for-TV group since the Monkees: How do you transition into artists with a capital *A*? That answer might lie in their new album, *7/27*, out in May. Like everything that's in the works in mass culture nowadays, it is sealed behind a veil of NSA-style secrecy. But the group promises it's a clearer vision for what Fifth Harmony are—and will become. "We've had a lot more creative say," says Normani. Ally agrees: "People will get a deeper insight into what we are."

What *are* they, anyway? One way to find out more about their personalities might be to ask about their favorite Disney movie, superhero, and Beyoncé song. The ladies are game to share. Ally's decisive: *Beauty and the Beast*, Batman, and "Love on Top." Lauren goes for *Alice in Wonderland*, Black Widow, and "Baby Boy." Dinah stumps for *The Lion King*, Wolverine, and "If I Were a Boy," while Camila vouches for *Peter Pan* and Iron Man—and declares "Irreplaceable" one of the all-time female-empowerment songs. Normani, however, weighs the question with LSAT-level precision. "*Mary Poppins*, definitely. *Tarzan*: He was raised by a different species, but it worked out for him. And *Princess and the Frog*, because that's home for me. New Orleans, the beignets, the bayou." Her favorite superhero: Storm or Catwoman. "As long as it's Halle Berry, I'm down," she says. As for a Beyoncé track, she chooses "Formation." "It's real-life things she's talking about, not just shaking her butt."

When it comes to discussing their new album, Fifth Harmony are much more guarded, but they are confident it marks an evolution from their previous work. "I think on [2015's] *Reflection*, and since we got off *X Factor*, we tried to establish what best represented us," says Camila. "The main thing for us was having a ballad," adds Ally. "We didn't really have a slower song in *Reflection*. It's something we all fought for. Finally, [fans] get to hear a more vulnerable side."

Despite the talk of vulnerability, Fifth Harmony have impressively weathered the rigors of Internet-age teen fame—they have a combined 9 million followers on Twitter—and they wax philosophical about dealing with the perils of fan rage. "If they don't know you personally, don't take it personal," says Lauren, who has the strangest social-media story of anyone in the group by far. Recently, on Twitter,

Lauren
Ally
Normani
Dinah

> “OUR NAME COULD’VE BEEN MUCH COOLER—BUT I LIKE IT NOW.”
>
> —NORMANI KORDEI

she recalls seeing one devoted fan who “got a tattoo of my face on their hand, and they put a puppy dog and clown eyes on me,” she says. Impressively, she does not sound *remotely* freaked out by this: “More power to you if that’s your art. You know what I mean?”

As the SUV rolls through L.A.’s Los Feliz neighborhood, it begins to pour—El Niño!—and modesty prevents your trusted correspondent from revealing which Fifth Harmony member declares that she has to pee. “How close are we?” asks the imperiled singer. “Five minutes?” (The driver doesn’t respond, probably because the answer is “more like 15.”) As an attempt at distraction, the women talk about the music they’re listening to now. “Jazmine Sullivan is the *bish*,” says Dinah. “Real artists that can actually sing. I think that’s what happened long ago, in the ’90s.” Ally’s secret musical fixation is film scores. “I love listening to John Williams on Pandora,” she explains.

Finally, the van arrives at the Moonlight Rollerway in Glendale, Calif., where they’re about to spend an hour roller-skating. The location looks familiar. “We came here for Snoop’s birthday!” Dinah says. (Yep, that Snoop.) One by one, they leave the car.

Fifth Harmony is a name they were given, not one they chose. Earlier names included LYLAS, text-speak for “Love You Like a Sister,” and 1432, which somehow stands for “I Love You Too.” But as the group is ready to hit the next stage of pop stardom, would they change it if they could? “It could’ve been much cooler,” jokes Normani. “But I like it now.” “You know when you get a certain vibe from a name?” says Dinah. “Like, J. Cole. He’s a cool guy! You hear ‘Fifth Harmony,’ you’re like, ‘Interesting…’ ” ◆

Picnic
Shoulder
Hock

Abbi Jacobson and Ilana Glazer photographed at the Spotted Pig in New York City on March 2, 2016

3 ROUNDS *With The* BROADS *of* BROAD CITY

EW hits a New York City gastropub with ILANA GLAZER and ABBI JACOBSON, the (yaass!) kweens of the funniest—and craziest—show on TV.

By
RAY RAHMAN @*RAYRAHMAN*

Photographs by
MATTHEW SALACUSE

MANHATTAN RESTAURANT THE SPOTTED PIG IS never short on celebrity sightings, but when Ilana Glazer and Abbi Jacobson stormed the trendy eatery one recent evening in March, the whole building seemed to start buzzing. The two are getting used to turning heads these days. As the stars and creators of Comedy Central's uber-zeitgeisty *Broad City*—the most ridiculously funny show on cable—Glazer, 28, and Jacobson, 32, have become heroines for urban millennials everywhere. They've even found a fan in presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. As their show (which airs Wednesdays at 10 p.m.) unspools its third season, the ladies are ready to unwind over some burgers, booze, and (*sshhh!*) maybe a little pot.

Round 1

A NELSON'S FOLLY
(CACHAÇA, RUM, GRAPEFRUIT, LIME, GINGER, BITTERS) **FOR ABBI,**
A BATTLE OF MARCIANO
(VODKA, APERITIF WINE, VERMOUTH, LEMON) **FOR ILANA**

So you guys just got back from taping *Late Night*. How'd it go?

ABBI JACOBSON It was so fun! I feel like we were the most natural we've been on that kind of show.

ILANA GLAZER Yeah, we kind of know him. We're so lucky with Amy [Poehler, a *Broad City* exec producer]. It's like we get to feel, like, more relaxed around Seth Meyers. We don't know him well, but it's like, "Oh, my friend!"

ABBI He's one of the only guys that, like, comes backstage before. Most times, you go up and you meet them as you're walking on stage.

ILANA You're like [*mock friendliness*], "Oh, heyyy!"

ABBI But he comes back and says hello and, like, talks and shoots the s---.

It's been two years since *Broad City* made the jump from Web series to cable TV. How has making the show changed for you over time?

ABBI In that first season, we were all kind of learning it together. It was an intensive college degree in television writing.

ILANA In season 3, we learned from looking back at the last two seasons that we can have whoever we want in our room, we can divide up the writers exactly how we want. And we also realized that writing is the worst part! Before, we were like, "It's all a learning experience!" And then we're like, "No, this is so hard." This year, in the third season, writing was the hardest, and shooting was the funnest.

ABBI I think you can see that in the episodes.

ILANA That second-act break in the "Co-Op" episode, with Abbi falling in the beans, is the hardest I've ever, *ever* laughed at our show.

ABBI When she saw it in the edit, Ilana could not stop.

ILANA I cried. I was holding my crotch, because I was, like, peeing. That was the hardest I've ever laughed at *Broad City*. Paul W. Downs, who plays [Abbi's boss] Trey on the show, was saying that somebody asked him, "What's your advice for act breaks?" And he said: "Scream." [*Laughs*] We are always, like, screaming and falling and s---ting.

ABBI Or farting.

ILANA Yes. Scream, fall, or fart. Fart, f---, scream.

ABBI At the end of the day: Scream, fall, f---, or fart.

When you have special guests, does it take a while for them to nail the tone of the show?

ABBI It's true with how fast we go, because we're still pretty low-budget. But we adapt to them also. We don't push them into what we do.

ILANA We do have to recalibrate. This is such a huge deal for us; we've never worked on other TV shows. And we're like, "Here's your director's chair!"

ABBI "What do you want for lunch? Guys! Get her a salad! Get the menus! See what they carry, we only have an hour!"

ILANA We, like, *buy* the person lunch. We're just so desperate to please.

ABBI The little things can make someone happy. You're not getting a big trailer on our show.

ILANA They have a tiny trailer!

ABBI They get a little sliver of a piece of a trailer. And bathrooms?

ILANA This is the first year we get trailers, and they were really tiny.

ABBI And people are all like, "Why do you need them? To call each other from the trailers?"

One big guest this season is Hillary Clinton.

ILANA Can you believe it, Ray?

ABBI Ray can't believe it.

I can! But how was the experience?

ABBI It was so bizarre! We have all these crazy guest stars, really famous people—people from all walks of life. But it was such a different experience. That's a world we are not a part of. It just felt like, This feels different. There were Secret Service people! It was nuts. It elevated the show so much to have her as a part of it.

How much solo time did you guys get with her? What'd you talk about?

ILANA Zero.

ABBI We went in and met in between setups, and we chatted a little about *Sex and the City*. Cynthia Nixon is in the episode as well, so we were talking about that.

ILANA We poorly chatted. She had a whole team there, and we didn't know what to say, you know? But she was amazing. And so warm! That was the thing—she was warm and funny and cool. Seeing her as a human being was such a privilege. Seeing this icon, like somebody from a button, as a real human? Such a privilege. Incredible.

So what about *Sex and the City* did you guys talk about?

ILANA She just was really stoked about Cynthia Nixon.

ABBI Basically, we told her Cynthia Nixon plays her campaign manager. And she was very excited by that.

ILANA We pictured Miranda. We just picture how Miranda has been living the past 10 years, since the show ended. To us, Miranda could be doing that. Miranda totally *would* be.

Vanessa Williams guest-starred this season as a wealthy investor who doesn't understand anything you guys are saying, but she knows that it's cool and marketable. Is that reflective of your experience in show business?

ILANA There's a couple levels to this. First of all, *we* are Vanessa Williams. We asked a 23-year-old. I just said what this 23-year-old told us.

ABBI Genevieve does our social media. We just asked her about the Internet, and she went on this rant literally about [the popular show] *Salad Fingers*.

ILANA We just transcribed [our conversation] so my character says everything she did.

ABBI And she looked at us like, "You guys don't know this?"

ILANA And we were like, "Whatcha talking about, Genevieve?" [*Laughs*] I knew some of the stuff, though. I know [the website] eBaum's World. "End of Ze World" I knew. But *Salad Fingers* I didn't. She just had it so on the ready! But when we talk to people older than us, it's always relative. If we say, "Yaass!" in a meeting, people will go, [*makes giddy gasp*]. It's powerful.

Round 2

A VODKA SODA FOR ABBI, A SECOND BATTLE OF MARCIANO FOR ILANA

A lot of young fans identify with *Broad City*, almost as a lifestyle. Since you guys shoot in the city, do you encounter a lot of rabid fans on the streets?

ABBI I think it's the most amazing problem you can ever have, where they're like, "I love the show!" It feels like this really cool thing. I think it would be so cool to have a party for *Broad City* fans. I think *Broad City* fans would be friends with each other. We should have a fun meetup where *Broad City* fans can go and meet—we don't even have to be there.

Tinder for *Broad City* fans?

ILANA Yes! A dating app. Oh my God!

ABBI Right?

ILANA Holy s---, that would be dope. There would be one million people on it. I'm saying that's a small number. It would be a small pool. And you'd know the person has your back. Damn!

ABBI You think the small side would be one *million* people?

ILANA That'd be the top. Probably 200,000 people would be on this dating app. Or 100,000.

ABBI It would be like "Are you more an Abbi? More an Ilana? More a Lincoln?" Because I think Lincoln [Ilana's boyfriend, played by Hannibal Buress] sets a bar dating-wise, maybe more than either of us. The way we write Lincoln is more traditional.

ILANA I also think there would be a Snapchat element where you could show yourself naked and it would disappear quickly.

ABBI Just because we're saying this in the magazine, you guys *cannot* steal this idea.

Deal. When you guys were first pitching the show, Amy Poehler would tell networks, "Everyone under 30 is gay." How did a comment like that free you up in terms of writing the show?

ILANA One thing I think is the age is now 40.

ABBI But I know that we live in a very specific part of the world. It's not most people's experiences.

Glazer and Jacobson thank the staff of the Spotted Pig for an epic, booze-fueled meal

ILANA It's a privilege. We're so lucky it's our world. It's our little joke, like, "Ha ha, we're so free!"
ABBI Arturo Castro, who plays [Ilana's gay roommate] Jaimé—he's straight, but he loves the opportunity to play a gay guy on the show, because he's from Guatemala. He said, "If some kid from Guatemala sees me on this show being open and Guatemalan in New York, they're seeing it and knowing it's a possibility." It's something we don't think about, but people who don't live in New York can watch the show and think, "This exists somewhere, and I can go there or I can make where I come from better."

We've had interns who moved to New York because of *Broad City*.

ILANA [*Screams*] Oh my *Gawwwwd*!
ABBI That is so f---ing cool! I've never heard that before. I hope they're okay?
ILANA They're living on the street, like, "Oh, no, this isn't right!"

Round 3

BURGER, PORK CHOP, SCALLOPS—AND SOME HITS OF WEED, COURTESY OF THE EATERY. SAYS ILANA, *"I'VE NEVER SMOKED IN A RESTAURANT BEFORE!"*

Ilana, you're working on a separate miniseries for Comedy Central called *Time Traveling Bong*. What's it about?

ILANA We just s--- out the first producer cuts. It cracks us up! It's so ridiculous. On *Broad City*, we were like, "We dumb!" It's, like, so stupid, but people are like, "They know what they're doing!" *Time Traveling Bong* is also so stupid, and we're also like, "That's smart—but it's not."
ABBI I think it's smart. It has historical references throughout. Very smart observations about history.
ILANA We want it to be Comedy Central's *O.J.*

Do you think fans are ready to see you guys apart?

ABBI This is the first TV project where Ilana is producing on her own. We've both been doing individual things for a while, but they're not out yet.
ILANA It both strengthens the partnership and also *f---ing ruins it*. [*Laughs*] But I don't think audiences aren't ready, because honestly I don't think enough people know us. I think people are like, "Who?" They're not going to be like, "Wait... [I know her.]" Instead, they're like, "It's a brunette. A 30-year-old brunette."

Comedy Central picked up *Broad City* for two more seasons after this one. When those new seasons air, you won't be in your 20s anymore.

ABBI Ray.
ILANA Ray!

Sorry! But I'm wondering if you guys have a plan to grow your characters out of their twentysomething lifestyles as the seasons go on.

ABBI Well, that starts this season. You have the episode where Ilana leaves her old job.
ILANA That's a huge thing. What do we have in life? Work and sex.
ABBI [*Laughs*] That's it. No family...
ILANA Work, sex, and weed. So season 3, the girls are finally experiencing consequences. And it's about time!
ABBI If we didn't deal with consequence, it would've been like, "You guys are lame, and you're stagnant."

What are Abbi's and Ilana's big-picture goals? Where are they headed?

ABBI At their core, they want what everyone wants: to be successful in something, in some way. To continue to have relationships with more people.
ILANA Romantic friendships.
ABBI They want what every New York transplant wants, which is to make it in New York in whatever way. I don't know if they know what that means yet.

How many more seasons do you think is ideal to tell their story?

ABBI It doesn't feel like it should exist forever. Just because of who they are—it feels like kind of a...
ILANA It's supposed to capture that certain part of life. And the characters are too gross if they don't grow beyond that point of life. So we gotta find that balance: Are we going to stretch [that aspect] a little more, or are we going to be more accurate of life?
ABBI I would never want it to go on too long where it starts to feel old and generic.

As you guys get older, is it a challenge to keep the show so in tune with the times?

ILANA Oh, yeah. I'm already too f---ing old.
ABBI We're way too old.
ILANA It's over.
ABBI We are, but at the same time we're not, because "cool" now is different. I think cool now is, like, being into stuff.
ILANA Sincerity.
ABBI So it's cool for you to really like old people, you know what I mean? So I think you can be old and cool. [*Pauses*] Man, that one hit [of pot] made me very wise. [*Laughs*]
ILANA "Made me very wise!" Oh, s---! Not high. "Wise." But it's like, how long can you be the hot young thing? Not long, baby! Not long. The industry *hate* old. They hate old. So whatever, we'll become, like, "staples"? You can't be the hot young thing forever. [*Jacobson nearly tips a drink over.*] We're blazed *and* drunk now! ◆

It's as easy as
ABC
PeTA animal birth control
Don't Miss a Step
Spay or Neuter Today!

Photo: SebreePhoto.com • Makeup: Joanne McCarthy • Hair: Anna Maria Orzano • Wardrobe: Shiffy Kagan for The Cloutier Agency

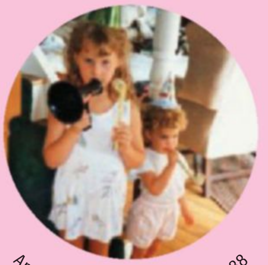
Carrie Ann Inaba
& Shadow FOR **PeTA**

U.S. animal shelters are taking in more than 7 million unwanted dogs and cats every year. You can help prevent this—it's as easy as *Animal Birth Control!* Save lives: Always spay or neuter your animals, and never buy them from a breeder or a pet store.

Sibling Revelry

SHE'S BEEN SISTER **AMY SCHUMER'S** SECRET WEAPON FOR YEARS, AND NOW **KIM CARAMELE** IS STEPPING INTO HER OWN BRIGHT SPOTLIGHT.

BY SARA VILKOMERSON @Vilkomerson



Amy and Kim ready to party in 1988

PORTRAIT: JAY L. CLENDENIN/*LOS ANGELES TIMES*/CONTOUR BY GETTY IMAGES. AS KIDS: COURTESY AMY SCHUMER

Kim Caramele has one question before sitting down for an interview with EW. "This isn't going to be just about *me*, is it?" The answer—sorry, Kim—is yes! And for good reason: While her older sister, Amy Schumer, has been on a meteoric rise to superstardom, Caramele has been quietly paving her own impressive path in Hollywood. In addition to her role as writer, producer, and performer on *Inside Amy Schumer*—which, after winning two Emmys last year, returns for a fourth season on April 21—she's producing and writing two screenplays with Schumer (one of which will also mark the debut of a young screenwriter named Jennifer Lawrence); is penning her own feature film; and has a solo development deal with HBO. But don't mistake Caramele for Schumer 2.0. "Kim is not just a slightly younger version of Amy; they have distinct personalities and voices," says *Inside Amy Schumer* executive producer Dan Powell. Caramele is every bit as hilarious—"She's the funniest person I know," says Schumer—but more introverted and with a dry wit that tiptoes toward darker fare. "I'd say she skews too dark sometimes," says Schumer. "Like, for *me* to say that...?"

For Caramele, who turns 31 at the end of March, finding success as a writer and producer was not a fait accompli, regardless of her DNA. Growing up on Long Island as the youngest sibling of Amy and brother Jason, a jazz musician, she was always her sister's partner in crime when it came to plays and choreographed dance routines in the living room. But whereas Schumer studied acting before transitioning into stand-up, Caramele earned a master's degree in school psychology.

Then, when Schumer got her deal at Comedy Central for *Inside Amy Schumer* in 2012, she wanted Caramele—who at that point was working and living in Chicago with her husband, Vinny—to join the show right away. "I was like, 'No, that's crazy—I'm a married school psychologist in the Midwest.' But I very stupidly said, 'I promise if it goes to a second season, I'll come do it,'" says Caramele. Cut to a season 2 order and Caramele temporarily leaving behind her beloved husband and three-legged dog, Abbott, and subletting Jake Gyllenhaal's New York City apartment with Schumer. It was a daunting

career shift, to say the least. “I was walking into a room of people who I now know are just monstrous pieces of s--- like me, but at the time I was like, *Oh, fancy writers*,” Caramele recalls. “I was very aware that even if I did pull my weight, I’m still Amy’s sister.”

But if anyone had doubts, they were quashed as soon as Caramele began writing. “She picked it up so incredibly quick,” says Powell. “Kim is shockingly talented and an incredible writer.... I can’t imagine doing the show without her.”

As for Caramele, her destiny became clear during a table read of a sketch she wrote during season 2 called “Acting Off-Camera.” It features Schumer signing on to do voice work on an animated film—“It’s like *Charlie’s Angels* but with meerkats!” as her fictional agent says—alongside Megan Fox and Jessica Alba, only to discover her character is Dumpy the Frumpy Meerkat. “I get emotional talking about this, because it was one of the best moments of my life,” Caramele says. “The other writers were laughing while they were reading it, which doesn’t always happen. It was the *greatest* feeling. That first table read was when I was like, ‘Maybe I *can* do this.’ ” Since then, Schumer says her sister has written her favorite sketches—including one in this upcoming season called “Fooling Around Chicken,” in which neither half of a married couple wants to have sex, but neither wants to admit it.

Though these sisters have always been each other’s spiritual touchstones, that’s never been more important than now as their profiles (and paparazzi allure) only increase. “You know how in *Inception* [Leonardo DiCaprio] has that spinning top he looks at to know if things are real? That’s what Amy and I are for each other,” says Caramele. “It’s like, no matter how stupidly ridiculous things are, we can just look at each other and then everything is fine.”

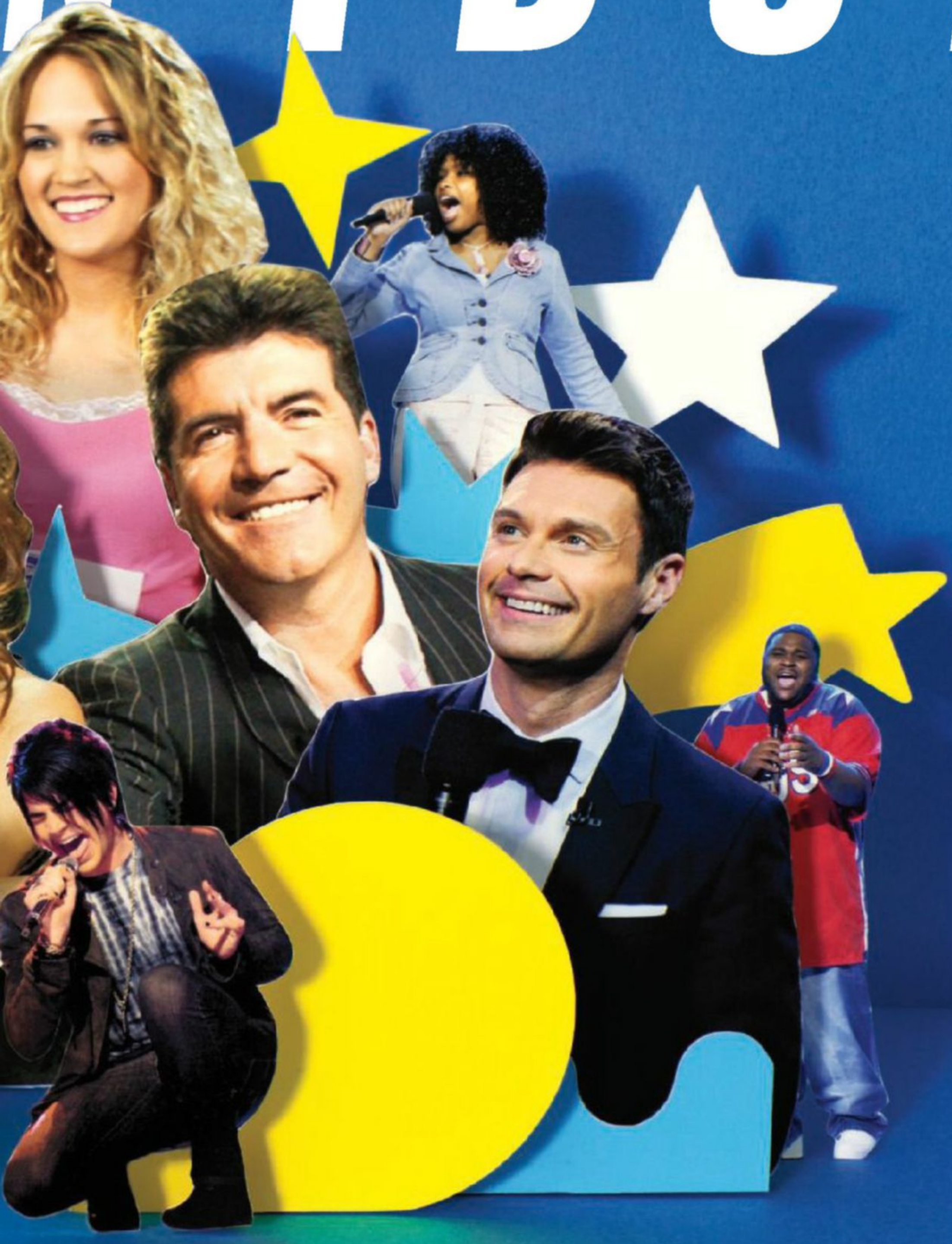
Caramele is the first to admit her ideal evening is far from glitz and glamour: You can find her hanging at home with Vinny and Abbott, either listening to the *Hamilton* soundtrack (again) or playing videogames. She has a highly honed sense of what she calls “being gross.” This is an all-encompassing term: getting a big head, asking for free stuff, anything that smacks of being sycophantic. And she’s very conscious that she’ll always feel like she has to prove she’s earned her place at the table. “I don’t think that’s a hurdle you ever get over,” Caramele says. Her sister disagrees. “I don’t know how much she has to do to prove it to herself—*everybody* wants her on their projects, and it has nothing to do with a connection to me anymore,” says Schumer. “I’m like: I’d better try to book Kim, because she’s going to be slammed.” ◆

> **“She’s been so supportive, trying to let me spread my wings.”**
>
> —Caramele on Schumer

FAREWELL, AMERICA

(*Clockwise from far left*)
Chris Daughtry, Kelly Clarkson, Randy Jackson, Clay Aiken, Carrie Underwood, Jennifer Hudson, Ruben Studdard, Ryan Seacrest, Simon Cowell, Adam Lambert, Paula Abdul, Harry Connick Jr., Jennifer Lopez, and Keith Urban

N IDOL!



FOX'S REALITY JUGGERNAUT GAVE THE WORLD NEW POP SUPERSTARS **(KELLY CLARKSON!)** AND VIRAL SENSATIONS **(WILLIAM HUNG!)** AND HELPED A NATION COPE IN A POST-9/11 WORLD. AS THE CURTAIN CLOSES ON THE FINAL SEASON IN APRIL, THE SHOW'S KEY PLAYERS SHARE UNTOLD TALES FROM THE UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY.

BY MARC SNETIKER
@MARCSNETIKER
ILLUSTRATION BY
JAMES TAYLOR

KELLY, CARRIE, FANTASIA, SIMON, PAULA.

By just one name, we know who they are and where they came from: that beast of reality television, *American Idol*. On April 7, the phenomenon signs off after 15 seasons, 11 judges, and a cumulative viewership somewhere in the hundreds of millions (seriously, *you* try calculating that number). Along the way, the show minted superstars and one-hit wonders and sparked an avalanche of copycats—LOL, *Rising Star*—and viral videos before those were even a thing. Most important, *Idol* united a post-9/11 nation once a week at the watercooler. Before a final winner is crowned, EW got judges and contestants to share their fondest memories. This is the story of a show that changed everything. This...is *American Idol*.

ON THE SHOW'S EARLY DAYS

RYAN SEACREST *HOST* I remember the firsts of everything—the first of getting the job, the first of not knowing how to do it, trying to learn how to do live TV while we're doing live TV.

PAULA ABDUL *JUDGE, SEASONS 1–8* A year and a half before *American Idol* started, I got a call from my music attorney saying, "There's this TV show [in the U.K., *Pop Idol*], and all the kids are auditioning and singing "Spinning Around," a song I co-wrote. One of the producers told me there was a panel of judges and two unbelievably rude guys called Simon Cowell and Pete Waterman. She told me that they say to these poor kids' faces that they suck. I went, "In Hollywood, they say that stuff behind your back." And she goes, "That's the big difference here." [When the show started], it was the perfect recipe of just the right ingredients from each one of [the judges, Cowell, Abdul, and Randy Jackson]. You really didn't know how the chemistry was going to work, and because we all had different points of view, we were all passionate in our own ways. It was a dysfunctional family. There were a few times when we really couldn't stand each other—well, not with Randy, we got along. But Simon would push buttons, and I would push buttons back, but at the end of the day, we'd laugh.

ON IDOL'S AUDITION PROCESS

ABDUL At the very beginning, you don't want to laugh when it's embarrassingly bad. How can you do poker face when the guy to the left of you is saying things that are absolutely horrible, and you have Randy to the right holding sheets of paper over his face laughing? I felt terrible for those kids. There were brilliantly delusional ones,

(PREVIOUS SPREAD) DAUGHTRY, JACKSON, ABDUL, COWELL, UNDERWOOD, HUDSON, SEACREST: RAY MICKSHAW/FOX (5); CLARKSON, AIKEN, STUDDARD: FOX (3); URBAN, LOPEZ, CONNICK, LAMBERT: MICHAEL BECKER/FOX 2)

(*From left*) Underwood, Seacrest, and Taylor Hicks

(*Left*) Judges Cowell, Abdul, and Jackson in season 1; (*below*) Clarkson

[but] when you think about the first season, total standouts like Kelly and Justin, Tamyra Gray…there was never a shortage of incredible voices and raw talent. We were always able to find it.

RUBEN STUDDARD *WINNER, SEASON 2* I watched maybe two episodes the season prior. I was in a jazz band, and I thought we were too cool for stuff like that. One of my background singers decided she wanted to audition, and she asked me if I would go with her. We slept outside on the ground like everybody else did, and I remember deciding to audition when the producer kicked me in the morning and said, "Hey, are you auditioning?" And I was like, "Yeah. Why not?"

CARRIE UNDERWOOD *WINNER, SEASON 4* The most important performance was my very first audition…not the one that was in front of "the judges." I'm talking about the first one, the one that we had driven seven hours and waited eight hours for in that stadium in St. Louis. The one [with] over 7,000 people auditioning. Somehow, after all the other auditions that the producers heard that day, the ones at the table that I sang to decided to give me a chance.

ADAM LAMBERT *RUNNER-UP, SEASON 8* After I had completed the first auditions for the producers, I had to quit my job in order to move on. That was my income, my health insurance. It was a big risk. So when it came time to go in front of Simon and Paula and Randy and [judge] Kara [DioGuardi], I thought, "If this doesn't work out, you're screwed."

KRIS ALLEN *WINNER, SEASON 8* I remember just enjoying the process. You see so many talented people get cut. I wasn't banking on *Idol* to have a career. I didn't have one in the first place. I really had nothing to lose.

ON IDOL'S RISE IN POP CULTURE

SEACREST I always found it interesting how complete strangers would come up to me and talk to me as a best friend. They'd say, "I can't believe so-and-so was eliminated. I can't believe Chris Daughtry left that night. Would you please tell Fantasia I'm the biggest fan?"… You could tell the show was taking off, and that's when it became really fun to do. Randy and Simon and I would grab a bite after every show, and we'd hang out on the weekends. As much fun as we had on the show, that's the way we were when we weren't on the show.

ABDUL The craziest thing that ever happened was this whole movement called Saula, which were telenovelas about Simon and Paula. Millions of [people] that did these novels and full-on screenplays. There are all these Saula sites dedicated to Simon and I arguing, in love, living happily ever after.

STUDDARD It was pandemonium. It was weird coming to the show and seeing, at any given time, everybody you've ever seen on television in the audience watching you with their kids.

CHRIS DAUGHTRY *4TH PLACE, SEASON 5* We had just finished up one of the group numbers on the finale [in 2006], and I'm suddenly standing a foot away from Prince. I'm just like, "Holy s---, there's Prince."

ON LIFE AFTER IDOL

HARRY CONNICK JR. *JUDGE, SEASONS 13–15* You have to give it up for Kelly Clarkson. The fact that such a huge superstar won that first year and made such an immediate connection with the world made people want to see if it would happen again. That's why it's been such a success.

JUDGES, UNDERWOOD: FOX (2); SEACREST: AARON RAPOPORT/FOX; HICKS: JOE VILES/FOX; CLARKSON: RAY MICKSHAW/FOX

STUDDARD I don't think Kelly and I could really detach ourselves as just artists from the show until maybe Carrie Underwood's season, because we were always coming back. We all did an *Idol* Christmas special, like, three years in a row, and then there was *American Juniors*. There really wasn't any life away from *Idol*, because we were always around it. But it always kept you present in people's faces. To me, there is no downside to being associated with *American Idol*.

UNDERWOOD The moment that my name was called on the finale...what an incredible moment. It seemed like my entire life had led up to that very night. And when my name was called, it was the happiest moment of my life up to that point. That moment truly changed my life forever. Everything that has happened in the past 10-plus years has been because of that moment.

TAYLOR HICKS *WINNER, SEASON 5* I went from playing small venues in the Southeast to Southeast Asia. That's what it does for your career.

SCOTTY McCREERY *WINNER, SEASON 10* *Idol* is a huge platform. It's not a career, however. You have to get out there after the show, find your way, and make the best music you can.

SEACREST It did get emotional for me. You get to know the contestants. You look at somebody every week in the eye, and you've got to tell them they've made it or they haven't made it...that's never something that you become immune to.

ON SHAKE-UPS WITH THE JUDGES

SEACREST Every time there was a panel shift, it was a turn for the show. When Jennifer [Lopez] first came on board [in season 10], she and Randy and Steven [Tyler] and I got together and started talking. She had been such a fan and had seen every episode. [Mariah Carey and Nicki Minaj in season 12] was not a blur—there was plenty of action on the show that year. I relish in the uncertainty that this show could be. You would think that we plan out each and every bit, but we don't. None of it's scripted.

ABDUL It was time for me to leave [in 2009]. I've never had the same job for eight years. I felt that there were changes happening, and it didn't feel like the same show. I would say to Simon, "You know, the show ended when I left. You were still there for almost two more years." He'd say, "Oh, shut up." But it's true!

JENNIFER LOPEZ *JUDGE, SEASONS 10–11, 13–15* When they asked me to do it, it was a big decision, you know? I was advised not to by a lot of people—they just didn't think it was the right thing for my career. I looked at it as something that I could contribute [to], because I had been in the music business for so long, and it was something that would be fun for me to do at that time in my life. It fit into my life perfectly, and I felt like it would be a good thing. And it was a great thing.

KEITH URBAN *JUDGE, SEASONS 12–15* I'll miss the camaraderie between Harry, J. Lo, and Ryan,

THE 10 WILDEST MOMENTS IN IDOL HISTORY

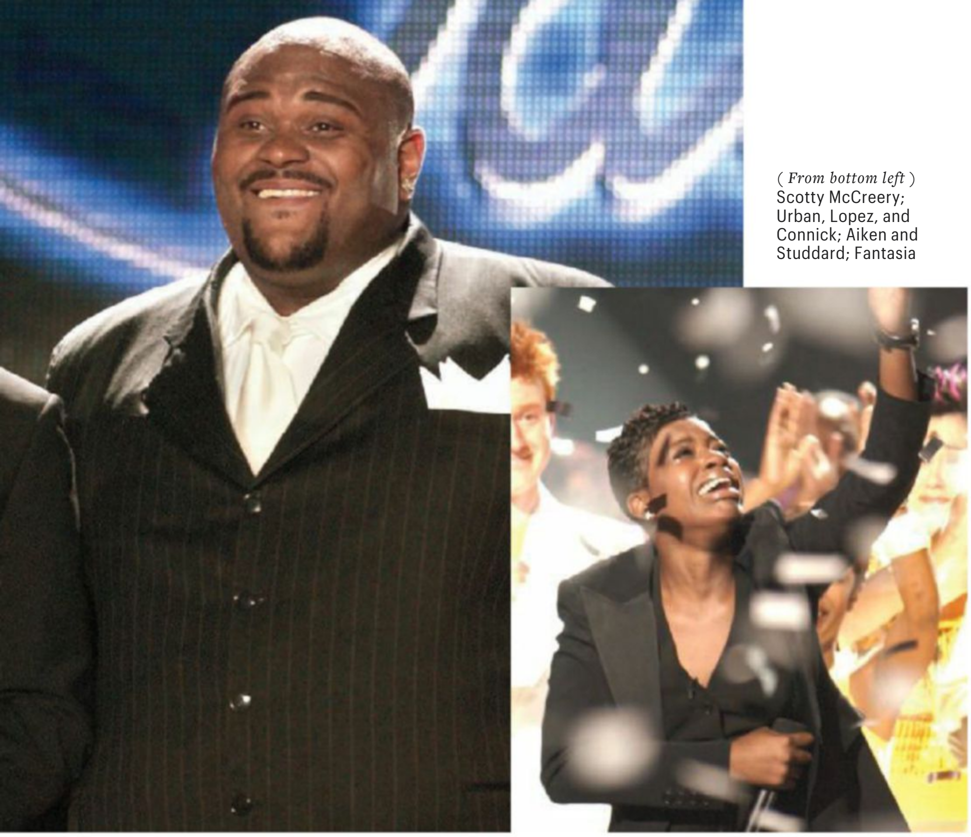
FRENCHIE DAVIS' PHOTOGATE
2003
The powerhouse singer (who went on to Broadway fame) was eliminated from the show after it was revealed she modeled for an adult website.

FROM JUSTIN TO KELLY
2003
Thankfully, the trend of every winner and runner-up getting a feature film didn't stick.

WORLD IDOL
2003–4
Idol mania resulted in this critically panned international competition between the franchise's winners. (Sad-face emoji: Kelly Clarkson came in second.)

WILLIAM HUNG
2004
She bangs, she bangs—and goes down in history as *Idol*'s worst auditioner. Surprise: Hung, now 33, works in government administration in L.A.!

SANJAYA
2007
The well-coiffed teenager made it far in the competition thanks in part to the anarchic mischief of Howard Stern and the website Vote for the Worst.



(From bottom left)
Scotty McCreery;
Urban, Lopez, and
Connick; Aiken and
Studdard; Fantasia

and the behind-the-scenes people. There's a real family vibe at *Idol*. That's the heart and soul of this show and what it has when it's at its best and most simple.

ON IDOL'S LEGACY

ABDUL The show gave so much hope that you too can achieve a dream. I take a lot of pride in the fact that there were legitimate groundbreaking careers that launched from it.

STUDDARD You could see its impact on the music industry. Just take my season as an example: Four people had [hit] singles. Two people had platinum albums. And you can go season upon season of that show, where that is a tangible reality that other shows haven't been able to copy.

LEE DeWYZE *WINNER, SEASON 9*
When *American Idol* first started, it was a trailblazer. It was one of the first places you could discover music outside of music videos and the radio. With the Internet and YouTube and everything, *American Idol* escorted all these things in.

Adam
Lambert

LAMBERT It will always be remembered as this amazing television and music event. The show came along in a time when our country needed some hope—it was right after 9/11. It was very inspiring for people to come together and root for the underdog, for a regular person.

SEACREST It really defined a family program. Parents would tell me it's the only thing the kids would sit and do with them.

DAUGHTRY You would go to work the next day, and everyone was talking about it when you got there. People were so invested emotionally. I don't think I've heard that kind of passionate discussion about any of the other shows or their contestants.

ALLEN We all keep in touch as much as we can. If you were on that show, you support other people who were on the show, because there's the commonality of what we've done, how we got into the business. There's only a handful of people now that really know what that's like.

UNDERWOOD *Idol* changed television forever. For the first time, fans were given a choice of who they wanted to hear on the radio. They related to the contestants on the show. It was the ultimate Cinderella story. ◆

Reporting by Eric Renner Brown, Dana Rose Falcone, C. Molly Smith, Mary Sollosi, Gillian Telling, and Nina Terrero

SEASON 8—ALL OF IT
2009
Kara DioGuardi enters, producer Nigel Lythgoe exits, the Judges' Save is born, and a voting scandal rocks Kris Allen and Adam Lambert's bid for the top—oof.

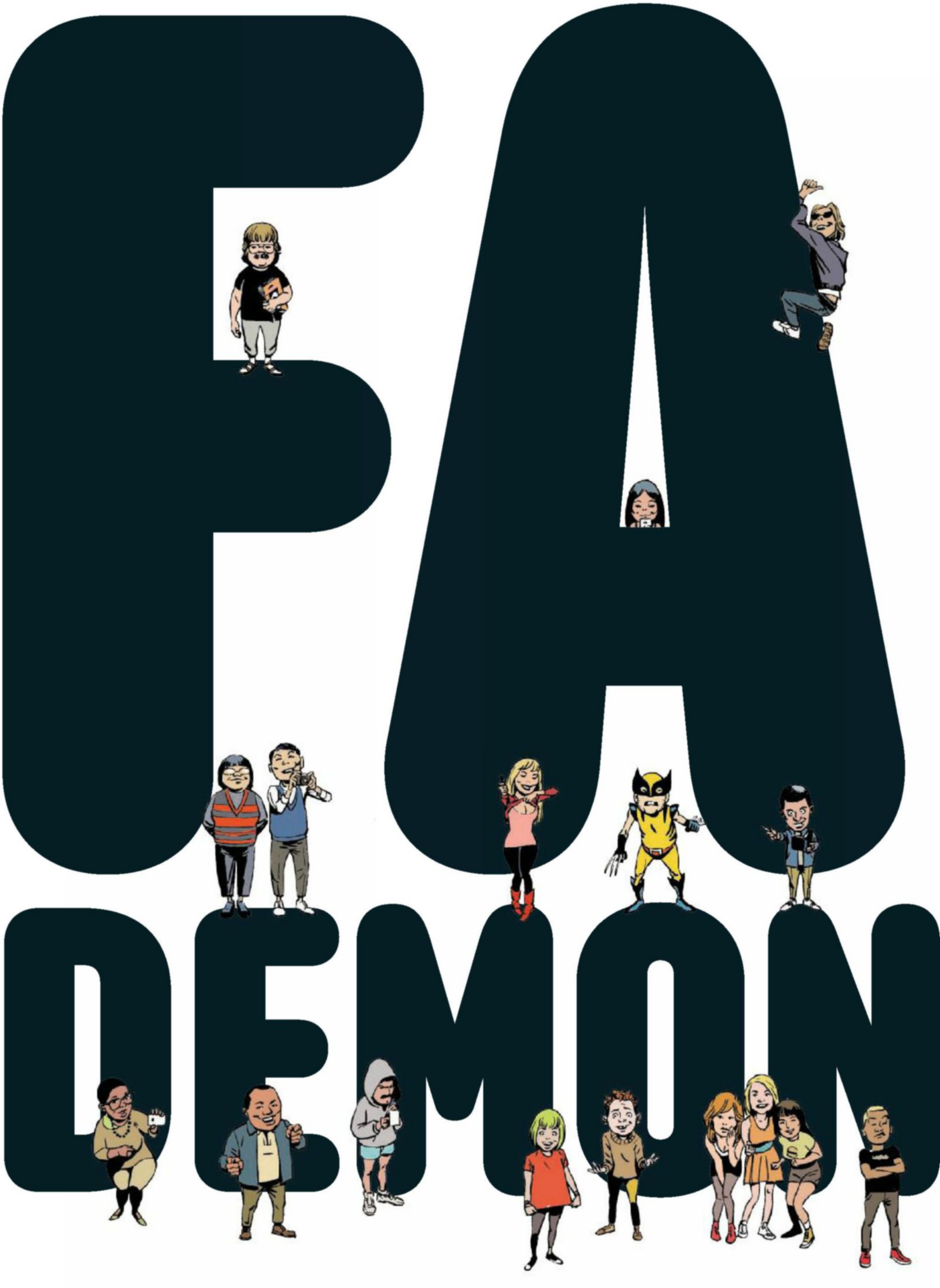
"PANTS ON THE GROUND"
2010
One of the first great Internet memes, in both popularity and stupidity, was created by this well-meaning auditionee.

THE ELLEN YEAR
2010
Was there a particular reason the talk-show host was chosen to be "the Paula"? We prefer to make like *Finding Dory* and forget.

ACE YOUNG AND DIANA DeGARMO GET ENGAGED
2012
When the season 5 finalist proposed to the season 3 runner-up, America felt like real matchmakers.

MARIAH CAREY AND NICKI MINAJ GO AT IT
2012
A preseason ploy to drum up buzz or legit beef? A leaked video of the two feuding had one of Minaj's best disses ("Off with your head!").

JUDGES, MCCREERY, "PANTS ON THE GROUND," CAREY AND MINAJ: MICHAEL BECKER/FOX (4); AIKEN AND STUDDARD, FANTASIA, LAMBERT: RAY MICKSHAW/FOX (3); DAVIS, HUNG: FOX (2); *FROM JUSTIN TO KELLY*: JON FARMER/FOX; SANJAYA: FRANK MICELOTTA/GETTY IMAGES; LAMBERT, ALLEN, AND SEACREST: RAY MICKSHAW/WIREIMAGE.COM; ELLEN DEGENERES AND JACKSON: MICHAEL BECKER/PICTUREGROUP; YOUNG AND DEGARMO: MARK DAVIS/GETTY IMAGES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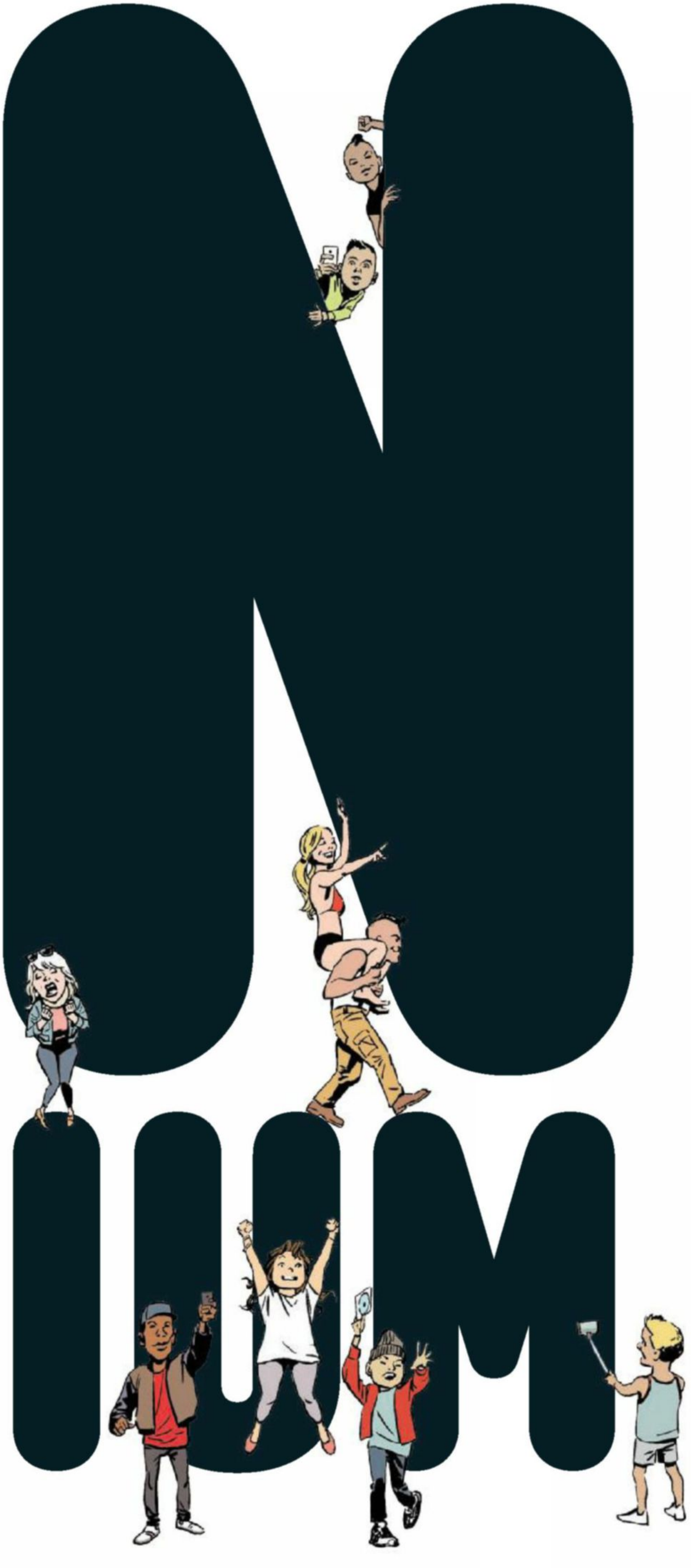
DEMON



Our stars have never been more accessible, but do we demand too high a price for our love?

By **DARREN FRANICH**
@DarrenFranich

Illustrations by **LÆMEUR**

There’s not much time for socializing when you’ve got a galaxy to save.

But that didn’t stop *Star Wars* fan Kevin Carlock from inviting *The Force Awakens* actress Daisy Ridley to accompany him to a Davidson College dance with a rap video he posted on YouTube in February: “Daisy, you’re cooler than Leia and Padme before her/I’d give you more than quarter portions for your parts from star destroyers.” Just last week, he got a reply—Ridley, posting on Instagram, had to politely decline.

Not so long ago, the idea that a college student could invite the star of the third-highest-grossing movie in history to his spring formal and expect—require, maybe?—a response would have been unthinkable. To be famous was to be distant. The celebrities of Hollywood’s golden age were stars in the literal sense: Their light shined upon audiences from impossible miles away. Fans glimpsed actors in films, then on TV; watched musicians on stage; read their thoughts in magazine interviews. Centuries of religious practice prepared fans for this one-way relationship—God speaks through intermediaries too.

Now God is in your pocket. If you like a living actor, a filmmaker, a musician, or a writer—anyone, really—you can pull out your cell phone and probably see what he or she might be doing or thinking, or pretending to think. And you can send your thoughts right back to them. “Social media has fundamentally changed what fandom is,” says Jeetendr Sehdev, a professor of marketing at USC who studies the intersection between celebrity and social media. “It has imbued the fans themselves with so much more power. Their voice is becoming equal to the celebrity’s voice.”

When did everything change? Right about 2009. In January of that year, Ashton Kutcher joined Twitter. Three months later, Vin Diesel joined Facebook. Novelist Jennifer Weiner noticed a shift then also—one that coincided with the season 13 finale of *The Bachelor*. “It was Jason Mesnick’s season,” she says. “Jason is torn between two lovers, and he’s standing on his hotel balcony weeping. I log in to Facebook, and I post: ‘Jason Mesnick is such a tool.’ And I get 700 comments in five minutes.”

Then came One Direction, the first true phenomenon of the social-media generation. The rabidly devoted fans of the pop superstars followed their every move online, with some even hoping/dreaming/insisting that Harry Styles and Louis Tomlinson were in love. In a video interview in 2011, Styles said, “My first real crush was Louis Tomlinson.” Tomlinson later tweeted: “Always in my heart @Harry_Styles. Yours sincerely, Louis.” It was retweeted more than 2 million times. As of last year, it was the second-most-retweeted message in history, behind the Internet-breaking Ellen DeGeneres Oscars selfie.

Remember that selfie? The one from 2014 with virtually all of the planet’s most unbelievably famous people—Julia Roberts, Brad Pitt, Jennifer Lawrence, Angelina Jolie, Meryl Streep, Bradley Cooper, Channing Tatum, Kevin Spacey, and Lupita Nyong’o (plus her brother, Peter)? It served as the selfie’s apex and its crossover moment as the currency of celebrity culture. For fans these days, the selfie is *the* defining piece of iconography, one that finally has replaced the archaic autograph.

Not everyone has welcomed the change. Mark Strong, who recently starred on Broadway in *A View From the Bridge*, saw it happen with the fans waiting outside his stage door each night. “In the old days, people would come back and say, ‘Thanks very much, love your work,’” he says. “And then it became ‘Can I have your autograph, please?’ And then ‘Can I have a selfie with you?’ And now it has graduated to ‘Can I have a hug?’ But that goes into personal territory. I’m always very kind and tell them, ‘I’m flattered, but I’d rather just sign your program, if you don’t mind.’”

Since fans “know” celebrities from social media, an in-person selfie request feels natural, according to Sehdev. “The expectations of fans toward celebrities are very different,” he says. “Now fans *own* celebrities. They have an equity stake in them. They’ve discovered them.” This sense of ownership explains why fans feel so emboldened to approach stars. They aren’t celebrities; they are *our* celebrities.”

My Craziest Fan Story

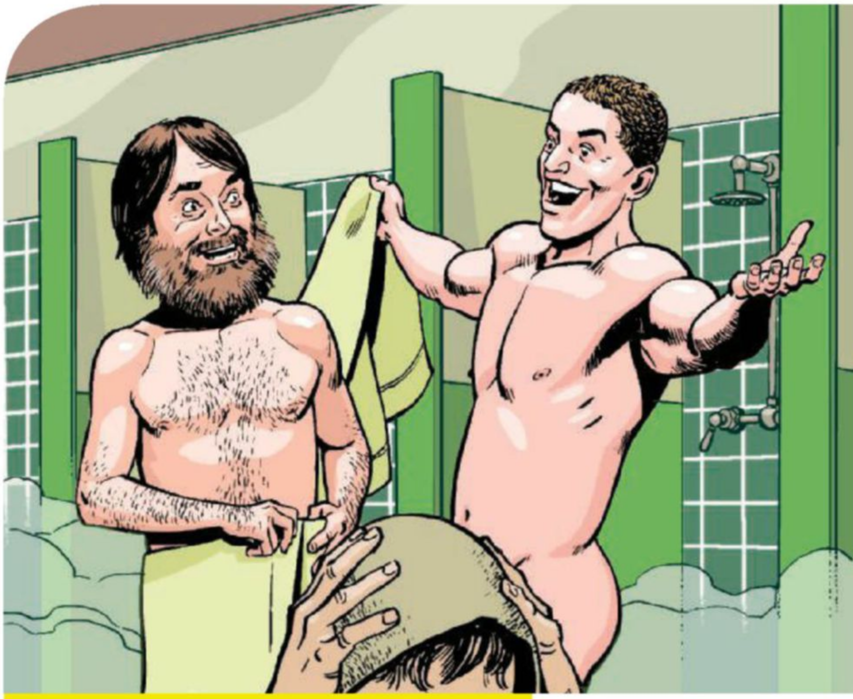
FACE LICKING, AUTOGRAPHED BABIES, AND LOCKER-ROOM LOVE—STARS SHARE THEIR MOST OUTRAGEOUS ENCOUNTERS

And when speaking to *our* celebrities, fans often feel free to say whatever's on their minds. Love and hate can be expressed at equal volumes, something that *Lost* show-runner Damon Lindelof experienced first-hand during the reign of his knotty ABC mystery series. He took plenty of heat from viewers who felt dissatisfied with the direction of the show. "I loved Twitter," says Lindelof—past tense, because he left in 2013. "I've shifted into a modality of liking some distance between me and the people who make the stuff that I love." With his current HBO series *The Leftovers*, he prefers physical interactions at fan events. "In person, there's a give-and-take. I'm seeing your face. Twitter, who knows who's saying what?"

Camila Cabello, a singer in the platinum-selling music sensation Fifth Harmony, has seen both sides of that give-and-take. Like many 19-year-olds, Cabello once had a Twitter fan account for One Direction. Unlike many 19-year-olds, she'd celebrated her 18th birthday with Taylor Swift. But she can still remember life before fame. "I was on the other side of the wall," she says.

Recently, after feeling upset about things she was reading online, she deleted all social-media applications from her phone. "There's a quote I really like," she says. "'Imagine you're walking around, and there are 300 people following you telling you their opinions of every single thing you do. You wouldn't be able to take another step. It's too much noise. You gotta block it. You gotta live life.'... I think Cara Delevingne posted it on Instagram."

Additional reporting by Joe McGovern



Will Forte

THE LAST MAN ON EARTH

"I was in the shower at the gym one day [and this man came up to me] and he *really* wanted to express just how much he liked the show, like, 'No, really, man! Seriously! Friggin' love it!' He was completely buck naked. He had a towel—he could have covered himself up—but he was holding the towel in his hand. It was fine. I just kept my eyes at noon on the clock. That was the weirdest situation, but it was still very nice to hear positive thoughts. I would take naked praise over full-clothed disdain any day."

CHRIS COLFER

GLEE

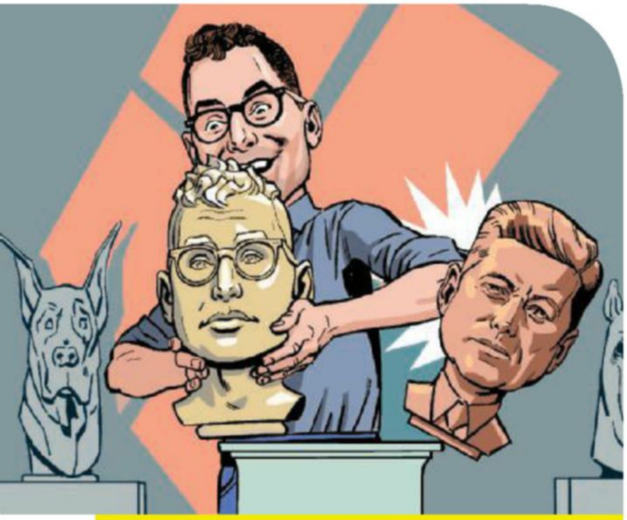
"The tattoos are endless. They've been of my face, a lot of quotes from my book.... But for the show, a lot of people have tattooed the word *Klaine* [on themselves]. I try to tell everyone, 'You're going to regret that when you're 40. You're not going to care about us.' I try."

COLFER: MARK BROWN/FILMMAGIC

JANE LYNCH

GLEE

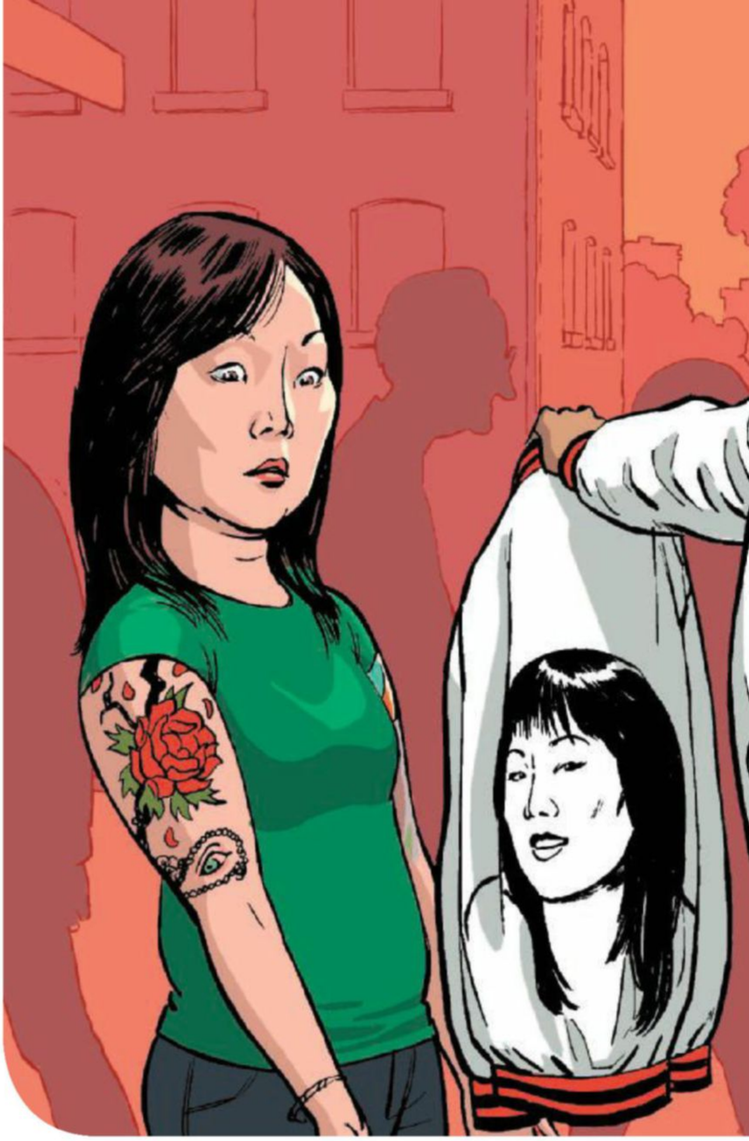
“What touched me the most are the people that dressed their babies as Sue Sylvester for Halloween. Putting a wig on and everything—the little red tracksuit and a whistle around the poor kid’s neck.”

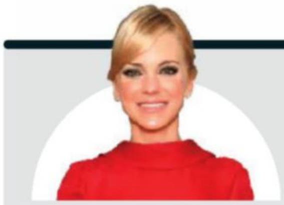


Jack Antonoff

FUN., BLEACHERS

“I’m really into busts—like I have this Kennedy bust, and I have these dog busts—and someone once made a bust of my face. It was truly good art. It was amazing, and it really satisfied me in terms of what I’m actually into. [*Laughs*] Then also, just the amount of work that went into it really touched me.”



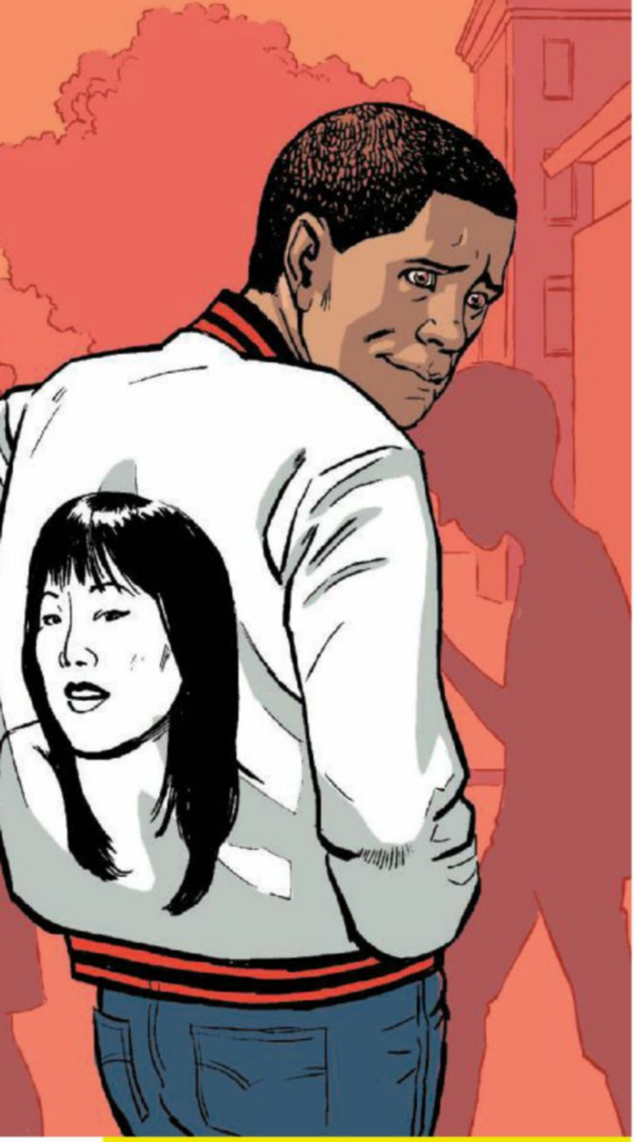


ANNA FARIS

MOM

››› “When I first got to L.A., *Scary Movie* had come out so I was just getting a little taste of fame, which is like, I would imagine, I’ve never tried heroin [*laughs*], but I think it’s that first ‘Oh my God, this is so fun, people think that I’m important.’ That feeling has kind of gone away, but I think I had a moment when I dyed my hair back to blond and people weren’t really recognizing me as much. I was at the mall and this guy came up to me and he said, ‘Hey, are you who I think you are?’ And I did the dumbest thing. I said, ‘I don’t know, who do you think I am?’ And he said, ‘No, you’re not who I think you are.’ I said, ‘I don’t know, who do you think I am?’ Oh, so dumb, and the guy said, ‘Britney?’ I said, ‘No, I’m the girl from *Scary Movie*.’ And he...just walked away.... Your friends and family have to keep your head in check a little bit because, especially when you’re young, it’s easy to suddenly feel for no reason other than you’re just doing your job and you got incredibly lucky that you suddenly are treated with more importance. It’s important to remember what your priorities are, so I had to give myself a little talking-to about that.”

LYNCH: ALLEN BEREZOVSKY/GETTY IMAGES; FARIS: DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES FOR TURNER



Margaret Cho

FASHION POLICE

"One time this guy made me a satin white jacket that he had drawn my face on the back of. It was really nice. He had made two, one for him and one for me. He gave me mine, but I think he was kind of embarrassed that he made it, so he didn't really talk to me. He just gave me mine and walked away. So I watched him walk away with my face on the back of his jacket, getting smaller and smaller. It was really nice, but I think he just felt embarrassed by it. I still have the jacket and I love it."

MICHAEL KELLY

House of Cards

"I don't know what it is, but when people ask to do a selfie with me, they go, 'That was great! Can you do one as [Doug] Stamper?' And I just kind of go to them and do that weird stare. A lot of girls have asked me to take a picture and said, 'Can you just do it with the Stamper face and, like, put your hands around my neck like you're choking me?' I'm like, 'Sure, yeah, if that's what you want.' [*Laughs*] I know it's creepy, but I do it because it makes their day."

GABOUREY SIDIBE

Empire

"Once we were in Chicago, because that's where we shoot *Empire*, and I was in an Uber with Jussie Smollett and Kaitlin Doubleday and, I think, Rafael [De La Fuente], who plays Michael. And there was a car next to our car who saw us and they started screaming, and they were speeding up and all of a sudden we were in *The Fast and the Furious*. It looked like they were going to ram us. We kept screaming at them to drive safely, to, like, stop because it was really scary. Then at the light they got out and ran over to us to take a picture."

TONY GOLDWYN

Scandal

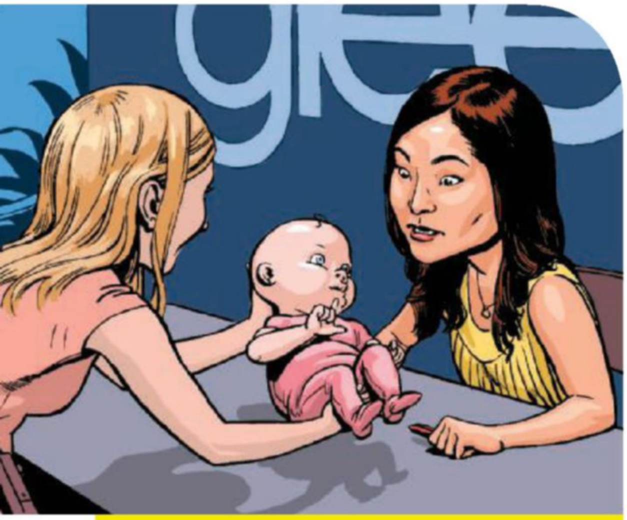
"I was in Toronto on a location scout and a woman came up to me and said, 'Can I take a picture with you?' I said okay, and as someone was taking the picture, she tried to kiss me. And I kind of turned my head like, *Whoa*. And she licked my neck instead of kissing me—and I was like, double *Whoa*. And then she took her camera and said thanks and walked away. It was traumatizing!"

JAMES CORDEN

THE LATE LATE SHOW WITH JAMES CORDEN

››› "When I was in *The History Boys* in London, I got a letter from a man saying would I send him a photo of me wearing shorts. Bear in mind, the other boys in this play were predominantly beautiful hunks. So of course I didn't respond. And then I had another letter that said, 'I really want you to send me a picture of you wearing shorts. If you could do this as soon as you can, that would be great.' And of course I didn't respond. And then I got nine pictures of this man wearing shorts and he was... the best way to say it is that in 70 percent of the pictures, he was feeling quite excited, and he was about 60 years old. But he sent the letter as if I didn't know how to take a photo of myself wearing shorts, and just saying, 'This is the sort of thing I'm looking for. If you could do this ASAP. And could you send me these photos back, please?' So I just put his photos back in the stamped, addressed envelope. I just sent them—and only them—back to him and have not heard from him since. He didn't write to any of the other boys. I think he was a real chubby-chaser."

KELLY: LEAH PUTTKAMMER/FILMMAGIC; SIDIBE: NOAM GALAI/GETTY IMAGES; GOLDWYN: JON KOPALOFF/FILMMAGIC; CORDEN: DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY IMAGES



Jenna Ushkowitz

GLEE

"I remember at that mall tour, with all those T-shirts, someone had created a baby onesie, and they set their baby down on the table and said, 'Will you sign my baby?' I was like, 'I'll sign your baby's shirt; I won't sign your baby.'"

"I had somebody come up and say, 'I named my baby Claire and I want her to be a strong woman.' And I was like, 'Ugh, God, that might be a terrible wish. I don't know if I want that for your daughter.'"

ROBIN WRIGHT

HOUSE OF CARDS

RUPAUL

RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE

››› "The craziest fan encounters I've had since [*RuPaul's Drag Race*] began would probably be from the girls themselves. Our contestants grew up watching the show. These queens, their whole drag aesthetic comes from watching the show. So it was interesting to work with them. They know all the ins and outs, and it presents a very interesting dilemma for the producers because we've got to try to outsmart them, because they know everything! They know what we're going to do before we're going to do it—sort of. The typical reaction when the drag queens on our show meet me for the first time is they are shocked that I'm taller than they think, and my guess is that they're shocked at how business I am, and how I mean business. I'm there to work. It's funny because the only time you see me actually with them—you know, 'camaraderie'—is on camera. When the camera's not rolling, I'm not with them at all. We like to keep it that way so I can put my foot down when I need to. And I do."

MATTHEW RHYS

The Americans

"I have to be honest, when I was doing a network show, I got recognized more. A woman came up to me once, an older woman, and said, 'How do they make your head look so big on TV?' And I was so stunned by the question! I tried to fathom an answer, and I was like, 'I…I'm not sure?' And, like, sort of almost apologizing that my head was so clearly disturbing to her. I scuttled off shortly after that. I wasn't sticking around for any more questions."

JAMIE LEE CURTIS

Scream Queens

"Mostly it's people who say they went to Halloween as me. I met a man in Iowa, in the Starbucks, when I was there being a Hillary [Clinton] surrogate during the caucuses. And I was in a hotel, and I went down for a coffee, and I saw a man—he had short gray hair and round glasses and a thin face—and I smiled and went, 'Hi, we could be brother and sister.' And he went, 'Well, I went as you, I went as Dean Munsch for Halloween. In drag.' And then he showed me a picture. Amazing. That doesn't happen to me every day."

JEREMY PIVEN

Mr. Selfridge

"I was out to eat dinner one time and this woman came up to me, and she was so lovely, and she said, 'I'm sorry, I just have to tell you, I recognize you from *Mr. Selfridge*.' And I said, 'Oh, thank you so much.' And she's like, 'I'm David Beckham's mother, and I wonder if I can get a picture with you.' So David Beckham's mother really wanted a picture with Mr. Selfridge. It was very sweet."

RUPAUL: CHARLES SYKES/BRAVO/NBCU PHOTO BANK VIA GETTY IMAGES; WRIGHT, CURTIS: JASON LAVERIS/FILMMAGIC (2); RHYS: JAMIE MCCARTHY/GETTY IMAGES; PIVEN: JEFFREY MAYER/WIREIMAGE

Reported by Ariana Bacle, Henry Goldblatt, Shirley Li, Joe McGovern, Joey Nolfi, C. Molly Smith, Dan Snierson, Tim Stack, Kevin P. Sullivan, and Nina Terrero

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Kerry Washington knows skin cancer can affect anyone, but everyone can take steps to prevent it.

Everyone under the sun is at risk for skin cancer. In fact, 1 in 5 Americans will get skin cancer in their lifetimes, yet only 20% wear sunscreen on a daily basis to prevent against this disease. Daily sunscreen use and annual skin exams can reduce your risk by 50%. Protection and early detection are the key to survival.

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Movies

EDITED BY **STEPHAN LEE @stephanmlee**

▲ Henry Cavill and Amy Adams

CLAY ENOS

Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice

STARRING	DIRECTED BY
Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill, Amy Adams, Diane Lane, Laurence Fishburne, Gal Gadot	Zack Snyder

RATING	LENGTH	REVIEW BY
PG-13	2 hrs., 31 mins.	Chris Nashawaty *@ChrisNashawaty*

ZACK SNYDER'S LONG-AWAITED *BATMAN V SUPERMAN:* *Dawn of Justice* may be the closest thing fanboys and fangirls will ever get to a heavyweight title fight like the Thrilla in Manila or the Rumble in the Jungle. Since it was first announced in 2013, the movie wasn't merely hyped as the launching pad for DC's expanded universe (bringing in the likes of Gal Gadot's Wonder Woman, Aquaman, the Flash, etc.). It would also serve up a superhero smackdown for the ages: the Dark Knight vs. the Man of Steel. As these things go, it's hard to imagine a bigger event.

Dawn of Justice is big, all right. The brawls are busy and brutal, the story is sprawling in scope, the effects are an embarrassment of pixels, and the performances (well, some of them, at least) couldn't be broader. If it's just size you're after, you won't be disappointed. But at this point in Hollywood's superhero cycle, is that really enough? Snyder has built his career on the supposition that it is. In films like *300*, *Watchmen*, *Sucker Punch*, and *Man of Steel*, he's proved to be the kind of filmmaker who cranks every knob as far to the right as it will go. Modulation, economy, and nuance may not be his thing, but at least his movies always look like a billion bucks. And this one does too.

REEL NEWS

Zoomania! Grossing more than $200 million in three weeks, *Zootopia* is on pace to outgross *Frozen*. • **Talkin' to You** *Taxi Driver*'s Martin Scorsese, Robert De Niro, and Jodie Foster will reunite at the Tribeca Film Festival.

▲ Ben Affleck

As every Batman story must, *Dawn of Justice* opens with a flashback to Bruce Wayne's defining childhood trauma: the murder of his parents. While we've all seen this tragedy rendered before, whether in the panels of a comic or on screen, Snyder gives it the haunting visual power of a primal myth. And the good news is, Ben Affleck is a solid successor to Christian Bale, even if he's a better Bruce Wayne than Batman. His innate air of cockiness syncs up perfectly with Wayne's spoiled playboy-scion persona.

The movie kicks off with the twin cities of Gotham and Metropolis trying to make sense of the destructive arrival of Superman (the film picks up on the heels of 2013's *Man of Steel*). As Henry Cavill's square-jawed hero grapples with his role as a protector of both mankind and Amy Adams' Lois Lane, Affleck's brooding vigilante (along with confidant Alfred, now played by Jeremy Irons) wrestles with the question of whether Superman is a friend or foe. Enter Jesse Eisenberg's Lex Luthor to manipulate our dueling heroes' anxieties and play both sides against the middle, pitting them against each other.

I get that this mano a supermano story line is a sacred text among comic-book aficionados, but *Dawn of Justice* doesn't do the tale any favors. It's overstuffed, confusing, and seriously crippled by Eisenberg's over-the-top performance. As the megalomaniac tech mogul hell-bent on bringing our heroes to their knees, the actor is a grating cartoon of manic motormouth tics. He might as well be wearing a buzzing neon sign around his neck that says "Crazy Villain." (If you don't want to know anything more about his nefarious plot, stop reading.) Luthor schemes to weaponize some Kryptonian relics left behind by General Zod in *Man of Steel* and create a rampaging monster named Doomsday that, to my eyes, resembles a giant turd. *Dawn of Justice* starts off as an intriguing meditation about two superheroes turning to an all-too-human emotion: hatred out of fear of the unknown. Two and a half hours later it winds up somewhere very far from that—but at the same time, all too familiar. It's another numbing smash-and-bash orgy of CGI mayhem with an ending that leaves the door open wide enough to justify the next 10 installments. Is it too late to demand a rematch? **C+**

THIS FILM CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING:

- **B** BATMOBILE
- **SA** SHIRTLESS AFFLECK
- **CH** CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS
- **NG** NANCY GRACE

RANKING BIG-SCREEN LEX LUTHORS

BEST

GENE HACKMAN IN *SUPERMAN* (1978)
Part supervillain, part Trump-like businessman.

KEVIN SPACEY IN *SUPERMAN RETURNS* (2006)
Spacey embraced Luthor's chrome dome and creepily chewed the scenery.

JESSE EISENBERG IN *BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE* (2016)
One of the biggest problems in an already overstuffed movie.

WORST

CRITICAL MASS

For **10 current releases**, we compare EW's grade with scores averaged from IMDb, Metacritic, and Rotten Tomatoes

EW		IMDb	META-CRITIC	ROTTEN TOMATOES	AVG.
B	ZOOTOPIA	84	78	99	**87**
B	10 CLOVERFIELD LANE	80	76	89	**82**
A–	MIDNIGHT SPECIAL	72	78	85	**78**
B–	PEE-WEE'S BIG HOLIDAY	62	61	69	**64**
B+	THE BROTHERS GRIMSBY	67	43	37	**49**
D–	MIRACLES FROM HEAVEN	49	44	55	**49**
B+	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	54	41	45	**47**
B	THE BRONZE	53	41	28	**41**
C–	THE PERFECT MATCH	44	41	31	**39**
C	ALLEGIANT ▲	60	34	11	**35**

BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE: CLAY ENOS; HACKMAN: THE KOBAL COLLECTION; EISENBERG: WARNER BROS.; ALLEGIANT: MURRAY CLOSE

BEHIND THE DESIGN

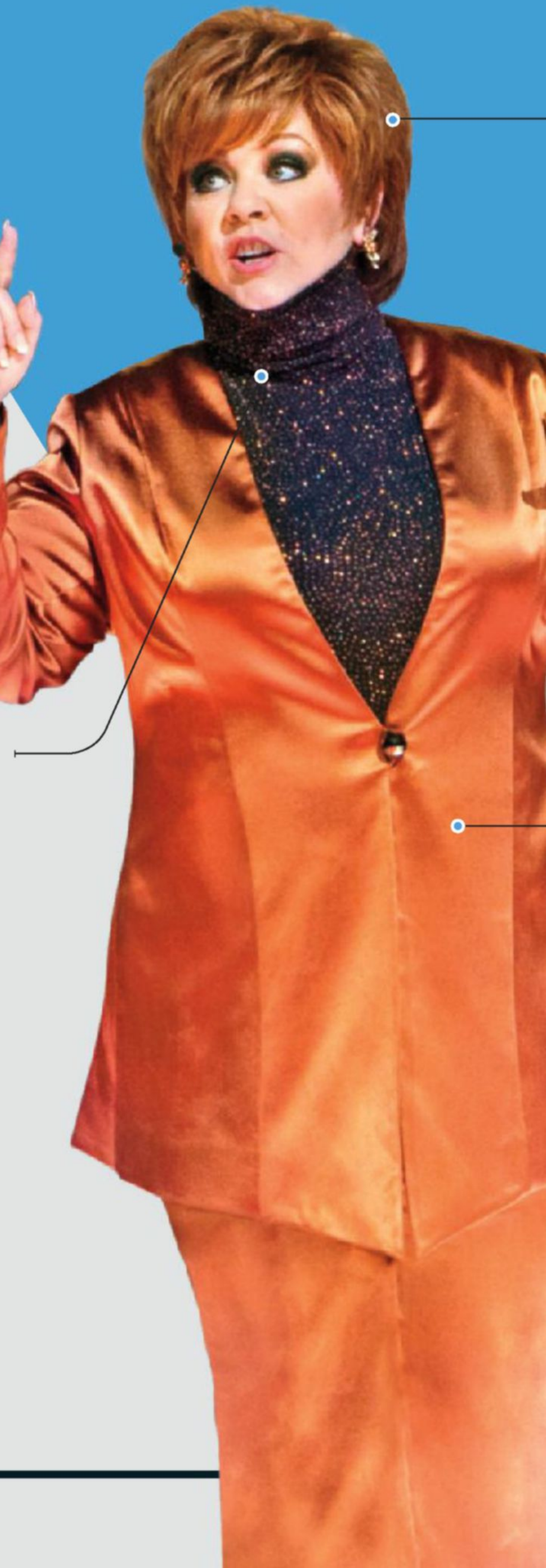
HOW TO LOOK LIKE *THE BOSS*

Here's how **Melissa McCarthy**'s latest creation, money guru Michelle Darnell, dresses for success.

BY SARA VILKOMERSON

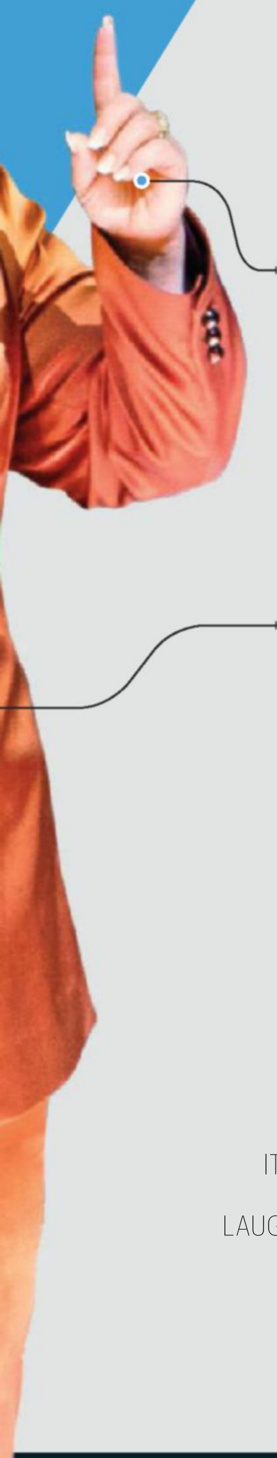
Michelle Darnell, the (sorta) hero of *The Boss* (out April 8), is a brash, foulmouthed celebrity mogul who's clawing her way back to the top after being sent to prison for insider trading. She is overbearing—and a grade A narcissist—but in **Melissa McCarthy**'s hands, Michelle is weirdly impossible to resist. "I really do love her," says McCarthy. "I have to love a character to play them—even when they are behaving poorly."

The role was born during McCarthy and director **Ben Falcone**'s days in the Groundlings more than a decade ago. According to Falcone—who's also married to his leading lady—McCarthy arrived on set with the character fully realized. "She was very certain about [Michelle] early on," he says. "I know that we're getting to a fun place for Melissa when she goes, 'I know exactly how she's going to look and what she's going to wear and what she says.'... It's a complete vision." Falcone and McCarthy, along with costume designer **Wendy Chuck** and hair designer **Linda Flowers**, break down Michelle's look.



GLITTER BOMB

Michelle's signature ensembles tend to involve turtlenecks, glitter, and large organza bows—often tied over the turtlenecks. "I've always been enamored of these women who are put together—the kind who spend two hours locking it down," says McCarthy. So she and costume designer Wendy Chuck created one. "Wendy is so incredible," says Falcone. "There wasn't a scene where Michelle isn't done up just so." But it wasn't easy. "There were nights my assistant stayed up bedazzling things," Chuck says.



GINGER SNAP

“We’d go to wig stores and take photos and laugh and laugh,” says McCarthy’s longtime collaborator, hair designer Linda Flowers. McCarthy says she knew immediately that Michelle was a redhead, and it was up to Flowers to find just the right shade. “She’s one of the most methodical people I know,” Flowers says. “She likes to laugh and have fun, but her standards are so high.”

TIPPING POINT

Michelle’s manicured hands go back to McCarthy’s days with the Groundlings, when she used to put on French tips. “Ben says I’ve never used my hands so much,” McCarthy says. “I don’t normally wear [long nails], but I have to say, my hands look better!”

SATIN DOLL

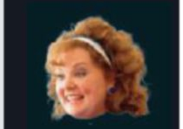
“Michelle rejected inexpensive fabric—I’ve never seen it happen before,” says McCarthy with a laugh. “It’s like the character knew we were trying to trick the camera, and it just wouldn’t look right unless it was the highest of high-end.” (Says Falcone: “Our producers were *thrilled*.”) “I do love this bronze satin suit,” says McCarthy, “and satin is not the most forgiving of fabrics!”

> “IT’S THE GREATEST THING. WHEN I HEAR BEN LAUGHING, IT’S LIKE POURING GASOLINE ON THE FIRE.”
>
> —MELISSA McCARTHY, ON HOW BEN FALCONE PUSHES HER TO COMEDIC EXTREMES

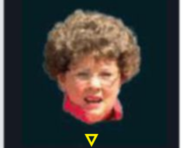
THE BOSS: HOPPER STONE (2); *IDENTITY THIEF*: BOB MAHONEY; *SPY*: LARRY HORRICKS; *TAMMY*: MICHAEL TACKETT; *THE HEAT*: GEMMA LA MANA; *MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 2*: GEORGE KRAYCHYK

WIGGING OUT

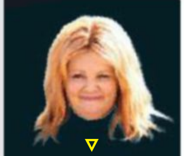
Hair is key to a McCarthy role. “Every time I read [a script] I love, I immediately go to a wig store,” she says. A few of our faves:



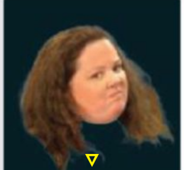
IDENTITY THIEF
2013
McCarthy’s con artist had hair as (secretly) big as her heart.



SPY
2015
Would you believe anyone with this ’do could be a spy? Exactly.



TAMMY
2014
When you’re down on your luck, your hair often is too.



THE HEAT
2013
McCarthy’s wicked awesome tough-talker had hair to match.

Nia Vardalos and John Corbett

My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2

STARRING Nia Vardalos, John Corbett

DIRECTED BY Kirk Jones

RATING PG-13 | **LENGTH** 1 hr., 34 mins.

REVIEW BY Devan Coggan *@devancoggan*

IT’S BEEN 14 YEARS SINCE WE FIRST MET the overbearing, Windex-worshipping Portokalos family, as ugly duckling Toula (Nia Vardalos) tied the knot with vegetarian WASP Ian (John Corbett) in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*. Now Vardalos is revisiting—and recycling—the movie, which earned her an Oscar nomination for Best Original Screenplay, with a harmless but forgettable sequel.

As the title suggests, most of the action revolves around nuptials. This time, Toula’s parents (Michael Constantine and Lainie Kazan) discover after more than 50 years of not-so-wedded bliss that their marriage certificate is invalid. The entire family rallies to legally bind its matriarch and patriarch, while Vardalos stuffs the rest of her screenplay with shallow plotlines, from Toula’s moody daughter (Elena Kampouris) wanting to go to college far from home to Toula and Ian’s attempts to revitalize their marriage.

Vardalos sticks as close to her original script as possible, lifting lines and re-creating entire sequences from the first film. It’s not a bad strategy; after all, the original is the highest-grossing rom-com, domestically, of all time. But the winking ethnic jokes weren’t all that revolutionary in the first film, and this time around, they feel even more stale. With the original, Vardalos and Corbett’s easygoing chemistry and the charm of Toula’s slightly insane but loving family pushed *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* to sleeper success. But the 2016 edition feels more like the short-lived, ill-received TV spin-off *My Big Fat Greek Life*: overly broad and ultimately unfunny. The result is a tired and unnecessary retread that not even a healthy spritz of Windex can cure. **C–**

CAST PHOTO!

The Next *Dazed and Confused*

Get ready to party with the cast of **Everybody Wants Some!!**, a "spiritual sequel" to the 1993 hit.

BY KEVIN P. SULLIVAN

RICHARD LINKLATER ONLY HAD to make *Boyhood*—the 12-year project that racked up six Oscar nominations last year—to gain enough clout to greenlight the movie he'd been wanting to direct for a decade: a "spiritual sequel" to his preeminent hang-out movie, *Dazed and Confused*. "After the intimacy of *Before Midnight* and *Boyhood*, I had this deep need to make a big, youthful ensemble comedy," Linklater says. But the legacy of his 1993 classic, which introduced the world to Matthew McConaughey, as the legendary cool dude Wooderson, loomed large. *Everybody Wants Some!!* (out April 1) takes place in 1980, four years after *Dazed*, and follows members of a college baseball team, including freshman pitcher Jake (*Glee*'s Blake Jenner), as they go from the bar to parties to practice and back to the bar. Like its predecessor, *Everybody* is light on story, but the onscreen friendships are real enough to make Wooderson proud—and maybe even say, "Alright, alright, alright."

3HAPPY HOUR
MONDAY-FRIDAY
LONESTAR
WELLS $3
JIM BEAM
LNE-STAR

GLEN POWELL

Much like his character, the wise and mustachioed Finn, Glen Powell (pictured with Austin Amelio, Forrest Vickery, and Blake Jenner) was the cast member whom the others turned to for advice about selling dialogue ideas to Linklater. "I was never afraid of Rick," he says. "The way to pitch was to give him an idea and then don't talk too much."

Photographed at Hole in the Wall in Austin on March 12, 2016

TEMPLE BAKER

Before playing meathead freshman Plum, Temple Baker (pictured with Ryan Guzman and Juston Street) hadn't acted since the fourth grade. But he saw (part of) himself in the casting-call description of his character. "Handsome and charismatic?" he says. "I don't play baseball, but that's me."

RICHARD LINKLATER

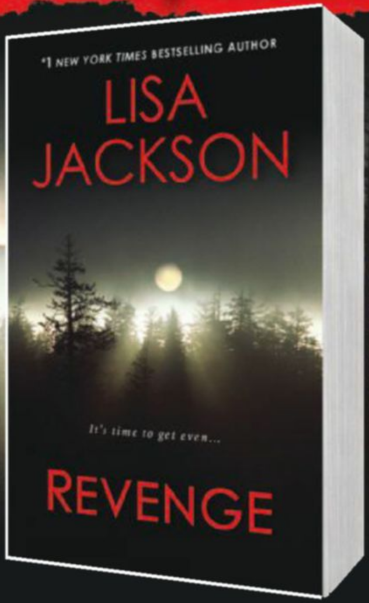
Before filming began, Richard Linklater (pictured with Zoey Deutch) moved the cast out to his Austin-area ranch, where they could rehearse and reshape the characters to each actor's strengths. "That workshop process is essential to dialing in the humor," he says. "The writer in me gets fired by the director in me: 'That doesn't work. That's not funny. I'm giving these lines to this other person.'"

WYATT RUSSELL

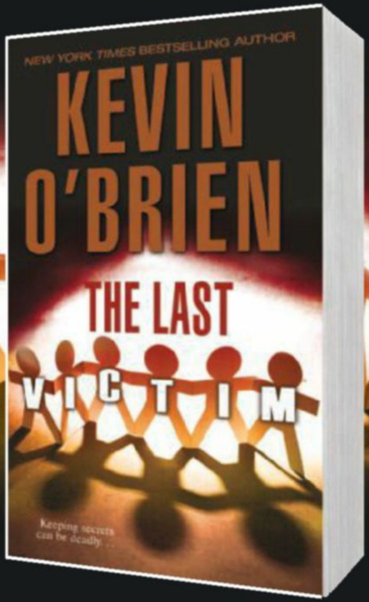
Hockey is the sport of choice for Wyatt Russell (pictured with J. Quinton Johnson, Tanner Kalina, Tyler Hoechlin, and Will Brittain), but his family's history with baseball—actor dad Kurt played the sport—helped him channel the mystic stoner pitcher Willoughby.

PHOTOGRAPH BY **BRENT HUMPHREYS**

Family Secrets
Don't Die...
They Kill.



When the richest patriarch in the scenic town of Rimrock is murdered, disturbing secrets begin to surface within his family just as a mysterious enemy seems out to destroy them all...


NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
KEVIN O'BRIEN
THE LAST VICTIM
Keeping secrets can be deadly...

Someone else knows what they did on that horrible night years ago. Someone who's been picking off the members of their little group one by one.

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VALÉRIAN AND THE CITY OF A THOUSAND PLANETS

Visionary filmmaker Luc Besson invites us on a magical mystery tour of the 28th century with a sci-fi spectacular (due July 2017) he's been planning for five decades. **BY JOE McGOVERN**

French director Luc Besson (*The Fifth Element*, *Lucy*) was 10 years old when he fell under the spell of *Valérian and Laureline*. The comic book, which began publication in 1967 and is considered an ancestor of *Star Wars* and *Avatar*, tells the adventures of two space agents who solve crimes in intergalactic worlds. The tales so flooded Besson's brain that they groomed him for young love (Laureline was little Luc's first crush) and the technological challenges of moviemaking that would lie ahead. "When I look at bluescreen," Besson, 56, says from the Paris set of his *Valérian* adaptation, "I see everything. My imagination is very comfortable with bluescreen."

And that's good, because *Valérian* includes 2,400 F/X shots. Besson is coy about the plot (and secret roles played by Clive Owen and Rihanna) but says his ultimate goal is to create a sci-fi fantasia that will also appeal to non-devotees of the genre. "Like a cocktail where you don't even taste the alcohol," he says with a Santa Claus laugh.

To that end, he cast up-and-coming actors Dane DeHaan (as Valérian) and Cara Delevingne (as Laureline), who are seen here (right) escaping during what Besson calls the movie's "James Bond-style pre-story mission." Below is a character called K-Tron, a member of a planet's military police. "You don't argue with him," Besson says. We won't.

TREND ALERT!

Sex, Drugs, And Biopics

A trio of films about music legends—each of whom stunned on the stage but battled the blues off of it—are hitting the screen

▶ *Born to Be Blue*'s Ethan Hawke; *Miles Ahead*'s Don Cheadle; *I Saw the Light*'s Tom Hiddleston

FIRST LOOK

Dane DeHaan and Cara Delevingne; (inset) K-Tron

BORN TO BE BLUE

NR, 1 HR., 38 MINS.

Chet Baker was known as James Dean with a horn. But Baker's lifelong addiction to heroin doomed his career just as he was poised to join Dizzy Gillespie and Miles Davis on jazz's Mount Olympus. Ethan Hawke plays Baker during the period when he bottomed out and attempted a white-knuckle comeback (see page 106). The music, of course, is the epitome of after-midnight cool, but Hawke's soulful turn deserves a grittier, less sanitized film. **B**

—*Chris Nashawaty*

I SAW THE LIGHT

R, 2 HRS., 3 MINS.

Tom Hiddleston does his own singing and his own scowling as **Hank Williams** in this inert drama about the country-music icon. Director Marc Abraham (*Flash of Genius*) never deviates from the fatal greatest-hits biopic format. All the scenes are arbitrarily date-stamped, and the crooner's adjunct wife (Elizabeth Olsen) is there only to boost his turbulent sex appeal. Hiddleston's charisma isn't enough to create music from all the movie's false notes. **C**

—*Joe McGovern*

MILES AHEAD

R, 1 HR., 40 MINS.

In and out of the studio, **Miles Davis** was wildly brilliant and brilliantly wild. Don Cheadle, who co-wrote and directed the film, plays Davis during his period of coke-fueled, Howard Hughes-like seclusion. Ewan McGregor costars as a *Rolling Stone* reporter sucked into Davis' orbit in a silly caper involving a missing session tape. Cheadle nails Davis' raspy voice and hair-trigger temper, but the character remains opaque—an enigma whistling a tune only he can hear. **C**

—*Chris Nashawaty*

K-TRON: ERIC GANDOIS; DEHAAN AND DELEVINGNE: VIKRAM GOUNASSEGARIN; *MILES AHEAD*: BRIAN DOUGLAS; *I SAW THE LIGHT*: SAM EMERSON; *BORN TO BE BLUE*: IFC FILMS

SARA RAASCH
SNOW LIKE ASHES
SARA RAASCH
ICE LIKE FIRE
FROST LIKE NIGHT
SARA RAASCH

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TV

LOGLINES

50 Cent Presents His Next Gig The rapper will produce and host his very own variety show on A&E (premiere date TBD). • **Chelsea Handler Reveals Name of New Netflix Talk Show** It's...*Chelsea*.

EDITED BY **AMY WILKINSON** @amymwilk

Aaron Paul and Michelle Monaghan; (*right*) Hugh Dancy

The Path

DATE	TIME	NETWORK	REVIEW BY
Debuts March 30	Streaming	Hulu	Jeff Jensen *@EWDocJensen*

WE LAST SAW AARON PAUL ON television screaming into the night and fleeing that devil Walter White. You could easily imagine his new Hulu series, *The Path*, as a spiritual sequel to *Breaking Bad*, tracking a possible future for lost soul Jesse Pinkman. Paul plays Eddie, a man with a traumatic, self-destructive past who has found healing and purpose within a community most would dub a cult. Founded by a recluse who's somewhere in Peru communing with "the Truth" that's giving him "the Message," which describes a path to enlightenment called "the Ladder," Meyerism is many strains of dubious transcendentalism (Scientology, apocalyptic Christianity, hippie mysticism, self-help psych) rolled into one fat metaphorical joint. Eddie's new life is barely established when the premiere sends him on a retreat and gives him a chemically assisted revelation that rocks his faith—a Pauline conversion to sobering doubt. How legit was his visionary drug trip? Does he seek clarity or stay comfortably agnostic?

The Path struggles to keep Eddie's predicament believable, and it makes a questionable choice in episode 2 to clarify some of his mysterious experience for viewers. But creator Jessica Goldberg and exec producer Jason Katims (both late of *Parenthood*) generate enough twists and resonances to keep you engaged. Not wanting to destabilize his community, and terrified of losing his family—his wife, Sarah (Michelle Monaghan), is a high-ranking believer born into the movement; his sensitive teenage son, Hawk (Kyle Allen), is waffling on whether to be a Meyerist for life—Eddie hides behind a deception to explain his angst: He claims he had a fling with an old flame (Minka Kelly) while on the retreat. Goldberg and Katims manage this gambit well so it never becomes tedious, and they let it create evolving, tragic complications for everyone involved.

Sly, intricate ironies abound on *The Path*. Eddie is a phony philanderer who is committing honest-to-God spiritual adultery: He's cheating on both the truth and the Truth. A misunderstanding or outright lie that takes on a life of its own? That's religion for many skeptics. Paul and Monaghan are always intense and credible, but I wanted more. Their characters have damage and history but not much internal complexity. The show's best character is Cal Roberts (Hugh Dancy), the commune's ambitious leader. His many unresolved flaws betray the limits of Meyerism. He knows a secret that could topple everything. But he doesn't want to. He believes that with progressive reforms—more activism, empathy, and power sharing; less secrecy, crazy, and cult of personality—Meyerism can do redemptive good, and he chases that idealism with reckless zeal.

The Path is best when it offers more than just skepticism and cynicism. It's most interesting as an allegory about our relationship to truth and the value of religions in a seemingly godless world, at a place in history far removed from their point of origin. Perseverance is required. The premiere clunks as a premise setter and paranoid thriller. Some story lines start poorly—Hawk's romance with a nonbeliever (Amy Forsyth); a bitter ex-believer's (Sarah Jones) bid to recruit Eddie to her anti-Meyerism crusade—though they slowly improve as they take surprising turns. Run the race, keep the faith: *The Path* is a provocative journey. **B**

MEYERISM 101

Learn these terms to climb the Ladder

▽

I.S.
An Ignorant Systemite, or non-Meyerist.

▽

POSSIBLE
An I.S. interested in joining the movement who needs to begin the climb.

▽

REALIGNMENT
An intensive, two-week in-patient process for members who have fallen off the Ladder.

▽

TG
To "Transgress," as in, to sin.

▽

UNBURDEN
To admit negative thoughts. (Meyerists can purify only through positivity.)

THE PATH: GREG LEWIS/HULU (2); ARCHER: FX; DR. NO, THE SPY WHO LOVED ME: EVERETT COLLECTION (2); ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE: UNITED ARTIST/GETTY IMAGES; TOMORROW NEVER DIES: KEITH HAMSHERE/GETTY IMAGES; SPECTRE: JONATHAN OLLEY

INTERNATIONAL MAN OF MOVIES

ARCHER AIMS AT BOND

FX's superspy took a break from saving the world (and nuking his liver) to work as EW's film critic. His assignment? Review every single James Bond movie (all 24)! Check out his best blurbs here, watch the video online, and tune in for *Archer*'s return March 31 at 10 p.m.

Dr. No *1962*

James Bond, played by Sean Connery's eyebrows, goes to Jamaica and stops the evil Dr. No.
LIKE There's a character named Puss Feller!
DISLIKE Sean Connery has the arms of a 15-year-old boy. Seriously, it looks like he's never even tried shower sex.

On Her Majesty's Secret Service *1969*

Bond goes to the Swiss Alps to track the head of SPECTRE, who has established a clinical allergy-research institute for female patients where the only cure is George Lazenby's [*censored*].
LIKE "Intense bobsled chase" doesn't seem like three words that should be next to each other but it totally works.
DISLIKE George Lazenby's ears. Did nobody have safety pins on set?

The Spy Who Loved Me *1977*

Bond investigates the disappearance of British and Soviet ballistic-missile submarines and is led to Karl Stromberg, a man who wants to destroy the world and live under the sea like a grumpy old mermaid.
LIKE Jaws! Played by the 7'2" Richard Kiel, this henchman bit a goddamn shark.
DISLIKE Bond's submarine car would have been much more impressive if it wasn't a Lotus Esprit.

Tomorrow Never Dies *1997*

Bond and Chinese agent Wai Lin follow media mogul Elliot Carver, who has used a stolen GPS encoder to incite a war between China and Britain because who wouldn't watch that?
LIKE Bond has to escape on a motorcycle through the streets of Saigon while handcuffed to a beautiful woman? Excuse me while I cross my legs to hide my erection.
DISLIKE Pierce Brosnan dresses like a Holiday Inn hotel manager.

Spectre *2015*

Bond walks to the ends of the earth to... eh...I'll be honest, I walked into the wrong theater and just sat through *The Peanuts Movie*.
LIKE I was the only person in the theater.
DISLIKE Charlie Brown plays it safe too much.

MORE ON EW.COM Get all of Sterling's critiques (plus a hilarious video made by *Archer* showrunner Adam Reed) at **ew.com/archerreviewsbond**

That '70s Reunion

Ashton Kutcher and **Danny Masterson** team up for the Netflix series *The Ranch* (streaming April 1).

BY DAN SNIERSON

THE COMEDY PARTNERS-turned-pardners are set to lasso laughs on a multicamera family sitcom, which stars Kutcher as man-in-transition Colt, a failed semi-pro quarterback who heads home to Colorado to run the family ranch with his overlooked, dry-witted brother, Rooster (Masterson), and set-in-his-ways father, Beau (Sam Elliott), who has a complicated relationship with semi-estranged wife Maggie (Debra Winger). EW asked these real-life best friends to riff on their new brotherhood and the proper way to watch the show.

How long have you been throwing around ideas for a series?

ASHTON KUTCHER Even when we were working on *That '70s Show*, we started talking about doing another show together.... Through the years, we kicked around a bunch of stuff.

DANNY MASTERSON This show started with the premise of the great outdoors, with me as a Wall Street guy coming back to help him run his ranch. Then when Kutcher was putting us together with [executive producers Jim Patterson and Don Reo from *Two and a Half Men*], they went more toward the brother-father relationship.

KUTCHER We ended up on my porch having a whiskey one night.... And we landed on this idea of an Archie Bunker archetype, that patriarch that was stuck [in his] small-town values and then bumps up against his sons, who saw the world in a slightly different way. Most of the shows you see about rural life, they're making fun of those characters. We didn't want to make fun of them. We want to embrace their ideals and their values.

MASTERSON We want to make fun of people who don't agree with them.

KUTCHER It's really a show that's designed around the perspective of the red states.

How would you sum up Colt and Rooster's relationship in 10 words or less?

KUTCHER "I hate you. Thank God you're my brother." Eight words.

MASTERSON "I love you. F---, you're my brother!" I got seven. I win that challenge.

What is special about this family's dynamics?

KUTCHER There's a huge trend now where grown children are having to move back in with their parents. They graduate college and can't find a job, or their job doesn't work out. There is a fear about moving back home, and the dynamic you'll see is that parenting doesn't end when your kids become adults.... You'll also see two guys trying to figure out how to get on their feet in a world that doesn't necessarily promote that.

MASTERSON And punching each other in the back of the head as soon as they turn around.

On a scale of 1 to 70, how likely is it that someone from *That '70s Show* will pop up?

MASTERSON I'm going to say 71.

KUTCHER We built this show to work with people we like.

MASTERSON We've hired one '70s cast member for a recurring role. As for the series regulars, well, we got 20 shows this season to get some of them in here.

Given that the Netflix model promotes binge viewing, how should people watch *The Ranch*?

MASTERSON Grab a glass of whiskey or six-pack of beer, grab your gal, loosen your belt, sit back a little bit, and get ready to laugh.

KUTCHER I would highly recommend a beer, a steak, and unbuckling that buckle. Then just start appreciating your life, and that yours is not as f---ed up as these guys'.

(*Left*) Ashton Kutcher and Danny Masterson on *That '70s Show* with Laura Prepon and Wilmer Valderrama; (*Right*) Kutcher and Masterson with Sam Elliott on *The Ranch*

KUTCHER AND MASTERSON: JAMES DIMMOCK/NETFLIX; *THAT '70S SHOW*: EVERETT COLLECTION; *THE RANCH*: GREG GAYNE/NETFLIX

EXCLUSIVE

Scandal Rocks the Vote

As ABC's political-fixer drama (Thursdays at 9 p.m.) heads into the height of election season, expect the primaries to mirror what's happening in the real world, down to a billionaire businessman vying for the Oval Office. Who will get your vote? Coexecutive producer Mark Fish and *Scandal* researcher Jess Brownell offer up sneak peeks at three of the candidates' campaign posters—plus some very useful inside intel. BY NATALIE ABRAMS

Mellie
Made for America

▽

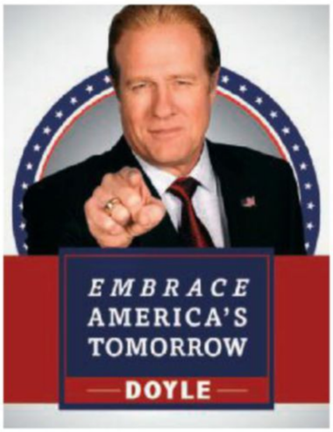
MELLIE GRANT *Bellamy Young*

Though the Republican former First Lady is now Virginia's junior U.S. senator, she has her sights set on being the country's first female president. "Mellie, like Hillary, is contending with a public that's already made up its mind about her," says Fish.

POLICIES Defender of the Second Amendment, hosted first gay wedding at the White House, and filibustered a bill threatening Planned Parenthood.

RIDICULOUS RÉSUMÉ FODDER She placed fifth in the skeet-shooting Junior World Championships.

CHANCES "Mellie has the most name recognition, but a lot of people find her cold and calculating," Fish says. "Mellie has been waiting her entire life to be president, so you can expect her to take some pretty big risks."



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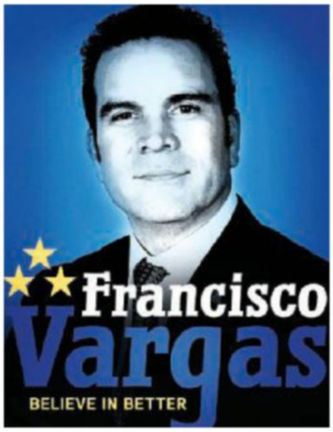
HOLLIS DOYLE *Gregg Henry*

The Republican oil tycoon's candor and uncensored viewpoints make him a prime Donald Trump-like wild card. "Many thought Hollis Doyle's candidacy was a joke, only to be shocked when his unfiltered opinions caught on with voters who had grown sick of politics as usual," Fish says.

POLICIES Anti-immigration, antiregulation, anti-EPA, pro-drilling, pro–Second Amendment—pro anything that lines his pockets, really.

RIDICULOUS RÉSUMÉ FODDER He has seven sons, one daughter, and five ex-wives.

CHANCES He's rigged an election before, so what's to stop him now? "Absolutely nothing," says Fish. "The only thing working against him is that his opponents know exactly how he operates."



ABC (3)

▽

FRANCISCO VARGAS *Ricardo Chavira*

The Democratic governor of Pennsylvania might be just the ticket for former White House chief of staff Cyrus Beene (Jeff Perry) to get his title back. "Frankie would have been an underdog had Cyrus Beene not orchestrated an opportunity for him to be a hero on national television," says Fish.

POLICIES Pro-choice, firm believer in government's duty to protect the environment, and wants to provide free college to all Americans.

RIDICULOUS RÉSUMÉ FODDER He plays guitar in a popular Philly alt-country band.

CHANCES "Frankie [is] getting a lot of traction [he] might not have gotten four years ago, in large part because [he's] never worked in Washington, and voters seem to be responding to that," says Fish.

GO ON,
TAKE
A BITE.

"A gripping addition to the retelling genre" —MARISSA MEYER, New York Times bestselling author of the Lunar Chronicles
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author C. J. Redwine

"Forget everything
you think you
know about
Snow White."
–MARISSA MEYER,
New York Times bestselling
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What to Watch

A DAY-TO-DAY GUIDE TO NOTABLE PROGRAMS* **BY RAY RAHMAN** @RayRahman

◀ Cuba Gooding Jr.

MUST WATCH OF THE WEEK

Season Finale

THE PEOPLE V. O.J. SIMPSON: AMERICAN CRIME STORY

TUESDAY, APRIL 5 | 10–11PM | FX

As with the boat sinking at the end of *Titanic*, we know how this Dickensian miniseries will resolve, but that makes us no less ripe with anticipation. "I can't resist seeing how it's all going to end," real-life lead prosecutor Marcia Clark (played magnificently by Sarah Paulson) tells EW. On the last day of the trial, she had lost hope that the jury would find Simpson guilty. "But I was very surprised," she remembers, "when I saw Johnnie [Cochran] that morning and he looked sick and upset. He told me he was very worried about the outcome." Indeed, most prognosticators predicted trouble for Simpson. And despite the verdict, perhaps that's just what he got. "He was ostracized," Clark says. "He was thrown out of [his] country club, he was thrown out of his life. It'll be so interesting to see how the show deals with that." *—Joe McGovern*

Go to *ew.com/what-to-watch* for our daily picks of **What to Watch**

MONDAY MARCH 28

Series Debut

▸ Listed Sisters

8–8:30PM | HGTV

No one can accuse the wizards at HGTV of messing with a winning formula. Whether a series flips or gut-renos, the specifics are interchangeable as long as we get to see an open floor plan or farmhouse sink at the end. The latest from the kings of comfort TV features telegenic twins Alana and Lex LeBlanc, essentially the Property Brothers without the Y chromosomes. Together the siblings upgrade homes on the sales block in order to help families afford their next place. The most unique feature to what is otherwise a *Buying and Selling* clone is the half-hour run time, which keeps it brisk yet just long enough to kill time waiting for takeout delivery. B *—Kevin P. Sullivan*

TUESDAY MARCH 29

▸ New Girl

8–8:30PM | FOX

Jess' ex-boyfriend Sam (David Walton) is back in the picture. Sometimes I think *all* her exes are just waiting outside her apartment, ready to reappear at a moment's notice.

▸ The Flash

8–9PM | THE CW

Barry time-travels to learn how to run faster. He'll enlist the help of history's most famous runner, Forrest Gump.

Season Premiere

▸ Deadliest Catch

9–11PM | DISCOVERY

The only show whose title could apply to fishing *and* catfishing.

CAR TUNES

▸ Carpool Karaoke Primetime Special

10–11PM | CBS

James Corden turns his bit into a special with J. Lo, who I guess doesn't take the 6 anymore.

THE PEOPLE V. O.J. SIMPSON: AMERICAN CRIME STORY: BYRON COHEN/FX; LISTED SISTERS: MATT BLAIR/HGTV

*TIMES ARE EASTERN DAYLIGHT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

WEDNESDAY MARCH 30

Series Debut

Lopez

10–10:30PM | TV LAND

Sometime between *Curb Your Enthusiasm* and *Louie*, every midlife male comedian decided he needed his own single-camera semiautobiographical comedy to document his daily travails. Some were bad (*The Paul Reiser Show*), others were not so bad (*The Jim Gaffigan Show*). I wish I could say George Lopez's effort is on the higher end of things. He's a funny guy, and Lord knows he's tried enough times to anchor a show—and this one does offer a different, nonwhite perspective on the genre. But do we really need yet another celebrity semihumorously navigating upscale problems like private-school politics, talent agents, and Snoop Dogg (played by Snoop Dogg)? I sure don't. **C+**

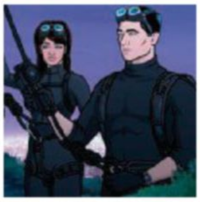
Midseason Premiere

Empire

9–10PM | FOX

Fox's hip-hop hit returns with shocking loss, alarming deceit, and a cray-cray beatdown—and that's just in the first few minutes. Featuring a sensational Cookie (Taraji P. Henson) vs. Camilla (Naomi Campbell) face-off over Empire's future leadership, the hour effectively erases all memory of last fall's missteps. Gone are the showy guest stars and weak story lines. Instead, there's plenty of snappy dialogue and strong songs, and a dark, melodramatic streak served up straight, the way Kaitlin Doubleday's Rhonda takes her vodka. Sure, there are moments where the show tries too hard—Jamal (Jussie Smollett) delivers a sanitized message about sexuality, and Lucious (Terrence Howard) opts for cheesy, *Godfather*-inspired intimidation tactics—but overall, the course is set for a deliciously bawdy back half. **B+** —*Nina Terrero*

THU MAR 31



Season Premiere

Archer

10–10:30PM | FX

Danger Zone time!

Season Finale

Shades of Blue

10–11PM | NBC

The season reaches a dark conclusion—like, *navy* dark.

The Graham Norton Show

11PM–MIDNIGHT

BBC AMERICA

Ben Affleck and Henry Cavill bring their jawlines.

THURSDAY MARCH 31 *(cont.)*

Series Debut

Rush Hour

10–11PM | CBS

The trend of turning well-known movies into series—while not the most creative strategy—isn't inherently evil. Best case, you get FX's *Fargo*, which transfers the elements from the film that people loved into a new format. The team behind *Rush Hour* apparently didn't follow suit. The show, which like the film transplants a Hong Kong detective to L.A., boasts neither the martial-arts acrobatics of Jackie Chan nor Chris Tucker's manic energy. Instead, we get more bland network-procedural action. With *Scrubs*' Bill Lawrence serving as an exec producer, the franchise *should* work on TV, but maybe as a lighter half hour. **C–** —*Kevin P. Sullivan*

FRIDAY APRIL 1

Season Premiere

Banshee

10–11PM | CINEMAX

The swan-song season of the hyper-pulp cult fave begins two years after the bloody season 3 finale. Hood (Antony Starr, above) has grown a bushy beard and exiled himself; crime boss Kai Proctor (Ulrich Thomsen) is now mayor; and a key character is dead, a victim of an alleged serial killer. There's also been a major recasting: The town of Banshee is now played by the larger Pittsburgh area. With so many broken relationships and so much change, the story feels alienated from what came before. By episode's end, Hood engages the serial-killer mystery (and shaves), and a guy gets his head crushed in a vice. Okay, *Banshee*, you've cleared your throat. Now scream. **B–** —*Jeff Jensen*

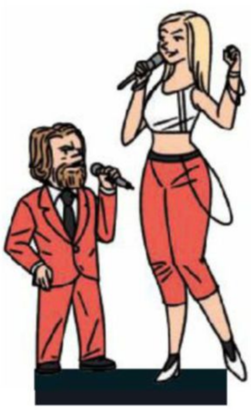
SAT APRIL 2

GoT + SNL

Saturday Night Live

11:30PM–1AM | NBC

With host Peter Dinklage, musical guest Gwen Stefani, and at least one *Game of Thrones* sketch, no doubt.



LOPEZ: TV LAND; EMPIRE: CHUCK HODES/FOX; ARCHER: FX; RUSH HOUR: RICHARD CARTWRIGHT/CBS; BANSHEE: GREGORY SHUMMON/CINEMAX

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JANNE IIVONEN

SUNDAY APRIL 3

Miniseries Debut

▶ The Story of God With Morgan Freeman

9–10PM | NAT GEO

Sending Morgan Freeman, a.k.a. the voice of God, around the world to investigate global religions might be one of those so-silly-it's-actually-genius ideas. The show's two halves—world mythologies about the afterlife and Freeman's own charming persona—mesh remarkably well. Freeman has a knack for taking everything in stride, from ancient Egyptian tombs to a robot promising a new kind of immortality, and the crisp pace ensures you never get too bogged down in arcane philosophy. **B** —*Christian Holub*

Season Premiere

▶ Call the Midwife

8–9PM* | PBS

A baby is born with no arms or legs. Heavens, call *all* the midwives!

*check local listings

▶ 2016 iHeartRadio Music Awards

8–11PM | TBS, TNT, TRUTV

Includes live music from Bieber and Zayn, as well as an award for "Most Meme-able Moment"—for which Taylor and Kanye are nominated.

▶ 51st Academy of Country Music Awards

8–11PM | CBS

This ceremony, however, promises to be very Kanye West-less.

MON APR 4

Season Finale

▶ 11.22.63

STREAMING | HULU

To this day, every American of a certain age can still tell you exactly where they were when they first learned what a "James Franco" was.

Series Debut

▶ The Powerpuff Girls

6–6:30PM | CARTOON

The bygone kids' show gets the reboot, because all of pop culture is now being held hostage by millennials.

▶ Blindspot

10–11PM | NBC

Jane has a confusing memory. Then again, that's, like, 85 percent of this show.

TUESDAY APRIL 5

IDOLATRY

▶ American Idol: American Dream

8–9:30PM | FOX

The retrospective includes current and former judges, contestants, and Ryan Seacrest suits sharing their favorite memories from the show's long run.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 6

▶ Schitt's Creek

8–8:30PM | POP

The riches-to-rags tale of *Arrested Development* gets turned up to 11 on *Schitt's Creek*, on which a narcissistic family lose their fortune and must live in a Podunk town. The second season finds the Roses still struggling to fit in at their adopted locale. The sitcom often shines when it finds its groove, but tonight's episode, titled "Bob's Bagels," isn't one of the season's stronger entries (not enough Catherine O'Hara). Still, it gets big laughs from Eugene Levy's constant WTF face as he's forced to enter the bagel biz with a simple mechanic. **C+** —*Dylan Kickham*

THURSDAY APRIL 7

Series Finale

▶ American Idol

8–10:06PM | FOX

And here it is, folks—the exciting reveal we've all been waiting for. Now, without further ado, the name of the last-ever American Idol, as voted for by you, is...going to be... announced right after this commercial break, sponsored by Ford!

Season Premiere

▶ The Odd Couple

8:30–9PM | CBS

Sorry, Matthew Perry, but it can't *all* be fun and games and *Friends* reunions.

▶ Global Health Frontiers

9–10PM | WORLD

The sad reality is that when a region is hit by a crisis, the international community jumps into action early, but eventually most people stop thinking about it and move on to the next headline. Think, for example, of disaster-stricken Haiti, where cholera remains a big problem. Fortunately, doctors from Cuba are offering their resources to help in Haiti's most remote areas. That's where this journalistic docuseries about the world's medical do-gooders starts its second episode, which also includes tales from an ambulance start-up company in India and the Philippines' Big Tobacco battles. With deep on-the-ground reporting and compelling first-person stories, the series offers hope in the face of hardship. **B**

THE STORY OF GOD WITH MORGAN FREEMAN: MATTHEW PAUL TURNER/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL; SCHITT'S CREEK: POP; GLOBAL HEALTH FRONTIERS: WORLD

FRIDAY APRIL 8

▶ The Adult Swim Golf Classic

11:30PM–MIDNIGHT | ADULT SWIM

The Adult Swim brand's streak of dadaist craziness has rarely been on more obvious display than in this bizarre special. Actors Adam Scott (*Parks and Recreation*) and Jon Daly (*Kroll Show*, *Comedy Bang! Bang!*) portray actual professional golfers with the same names—Adam Scott and John Daly—in a televised charity tournament set in 1966, long before either sportsman ever picked up a club. (In fact, Scott the golfer wasn't even born until 1980.) The main joke here is that neither comic actor makes any effort to look like he really knows what he's doing golf-wise. If the result is as dry as bunker sand, it should at least amuse those who own both a set of clubs and a very weird sense of humor. B —*Clark Collis*

Season Finale

▶ Sleepy Hollow

8–9PM | FOX

Abbie and Crane attempt to stop ~~Donald Trump~~ the Hidden One from destroying all of humanity.

▶ The Amazing Race

8–9PM | CBS

The episode is titled "Welcome to Bloody Fingers 101," which is the best course title since *How to Get Away With Murder*.

Season Finale

▶ Animals.

11:30PM–MIDNIGHT | HBO

A turkey looks for revenge at the Thanksgiving parade. Hmm, does the Butterball hotline cover that?

Season Premiere

▶ Catastrophe

STREAMING | AMAZON

The hilarious, foulmouthed, and improbably touching romantic sitcom's second season picks up after a big development: Rob (Rob Delaney) and Sharon (Sharon Horgan) get *haircuts*! No, just kidding, they have a baby now. But fans need not worry about things getting mushy: *Catastrophe* jumps ahead in time and stays squarely in the increasingly popular realistic-rom-com mode. "We didn't want it to be a family show," Horgan says. "We're more interested in *them*, to see a relationship further down the line. When the current gleam wears off, how do you stay in love?" Adds Delaney, "They know each other better, so they can hurt each other more and hurt each other faster—which I think is satisfying for the audience."

TOP COP

▶ Blue Bloods

10–11PM | CBS

Frank (Tom Selleck) is torn on whether to promote an officer. His mustache just isn't quite there yet.

SATURDAY APRIL 9

▶ Nothing Left Unsaid: Gloria Vanderbilt & Anderson Cooper

9–11PM | HBO

America is short on dynasties, but the Vanderbilts loom large in our imagination. This doc centers on a key living member of that clan, Gloria Vanderbilt, who gets interviewed by her son Anderson Cooper. The film lays out her strange, sad youth—including the "trial of the century" custody battle when she was a little girl—as well as her career as an actor, denim designer, and painter. Touching and intimate, the movie provides a fascinating portrait of a scion. B+

SUNDAY APRIL 10

SEASON PREMIERE

▶ Fear the Walking Dead

9–10PM | AMC

The survivors try to escape via boat. I hope the zombies brought their floaties.

▶ The Girlfriend Experience

8–9PM | STARZ

Finally, Steven Soderbergh's 2009 experiment in sexless eroticism gets the TV spin-off some weirdo somewhere asked for! Confession: *Je suis* that weirdo. Meet Christine, a cash-strapped law student embarking on a career odyssey as an escort. The show has more sex than the movie—Starz!—and translates Soderbergh's thesis that the Internet age has commodified intimacy into just another corporate asset. Riley Keough makes an intriguing figure, at once more empowered and more desperate than her cinema alter ego. I have no clue if this is a profound meditation on intimacy or a daylight-noir origin story for *Basic Instinct*, but I'm hooked. A– —*Darren Franich*

SERIES DEBUT

THE ADULT SWIM GOLF CLASSIC: ROBYN VON SWANK/ADULT SWIM; CATASTROPHE: ED MILLER/AMAZON STUDIOS; NOTHING LEFT UNSAID: GLORIA VANDERBILT & ANDERSON COOPER: JACK ROBINSON/VOGUE/HBO; THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE: KERRY HAYES/STARZ

Music

EDITED BY **KEVIN O'DONNELL** @ODtron

▲ Zayn Malik

Zayn

TITLE Mind of Mine

LABEL RCA

GENRE Pop

REVIEW BY Leah Greenblatt *@Leahbats*

▶ **FORTUNE FAVORS THE BOLD** boy-bander—or at least the first one brave enough to walk away. Less than a year after he exploded the Internet (and countless tender tween hearts) by announcing his departure from One Direction, Zayn Malik scored the one thing that always eluded the multiplatinum Brits Stateside: a Hot 100 No. 1. That single, "Pillowtalk," wasn't exactly a game changer sonically; a stuttering, headily atmospheric bedroom jam, it mostly served to recast him as his own grown man, dropping articulated F-bombs and describing all the things he could do "dirty and raw" now.

In exit interviews, Malik made it clear that 1D's sunny, studio-polished pop sound never really aligned with his own tastes, which were formed more by Usher and R. Kelly than by the rock-centric reference points his former bandmates shared. He also revealed that he had enlisted James "Malay" Ho, a producer best known for his Grammy-winning work with Frank Ocean, so it's not completely surprising that *Mind of Mine*—the I-am-solo-hear-me-roar insistence of the title is hard to miss—feels like such a smoothly inclusive survey in modern R&B.

More than a few tracks, especially the thrumming "Truth" and dreamy "Drunk," conspicuously echo Ocean's California-cool ennui. (Malik actually relocated to Los Angeles last year, though his Golden State sounds like a twilit place he mostly occupies between midnight and 4 a.m.) "Befour," "TiO," and "Like I Would" lean headfirst into sleek, Weeknd-style hedonism; "Wrong Place" slips in an early-2000s Usher moment; and the falsetto seduction "Bordersz" could be vintage D'Angelo.

BEST TRACKS **Befour** A disco-kissed venture into light-fantastic funk | **Fool for You** A gorgeously bereft ballad, and one of the album's most vulnerable moments | **Truth** A moody,

NOTEWORTHY

Band of Horses will release a fifth album, featuring collaborations with **Rick Rubin**, later this year. • *American Idol*'s **Phillip Phillips** will coheadline a summer tour with Matt Nathanson, launching June 17 in Del Mar, Calif.

There are a few outliers: Sam Smith will probably wish he'd written the lush piano ballad "Fool for You," and bonus track "Do Something Good Today" is one bong rip away from a full Bob Marley mood board. Maybe most intriguing is the delicate, Middle Eastern-tinged interlude "Flower," sung entirely in Urdu. (Though he might currently be the most high-profile Muslim entertainer in the Western world, the half-Pakistani singer generally refuses to discuss his faith. Google ugly search terms like "boy band jihad" if you wonder why; or better yet, don't.)

Like Justin Bieber, his fellow freedom fighter in the teen-idol rebellion, Malik's PG-13 material and battlefield ink (even the album cover winks at his many tattoos) are clearly meant to signal independence. Unlike Bieber, though, he doesn't sound particularly interested in pushing pop's boundaries or dissecting the vagaries of his own fame. Instead, he tends to keep his lyrical focus exactly where you'd expect any 23-year-old's to be: on good girls, bad girls, hard-to-get girls, and the partying and videogames that fill the rare downtime in between. With 1D now on permanent hiatus, there will almost certainly be other solo—and possibly bigger and better—Directions to follow soon. But Malik already has what it seems he's wanted for a long time: a *Mind* of his own. **B+**

THIS ALBUM CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING:

L LUCOZADE

BR BEDDING REFERENCES

RF RAMPANT FALSETTO

QCL QUESTIONABLE USE OF CAPS LOCK

pulsating tale of enemies (ex-bandmates?) and alienation

MALIK: STEVE GRANITZ/WIREIMAGE.COM; TEGAN AND SARA, LUCIUS, PIPER FERGUSON (2); SHARPE: STEVE JENNINGS/WIREIMAGE.COM; WILD FEATHERS: FRANK MADDOCKS; BEYONCE: KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES; LIZZO: TOM WATKINS/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK; M83: ANDREW ARTHUR; UNDERWORLD: DAVE J HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES; LYNN: DONN JONES/INVISION/AP IMAGES; PRICE: ANGELINA CASTILLO

SINGLES SWAP

EW recommends songs similar to the ones you already love. **BY MADISON VAIN**

LOVE THIS? | **TRY THIS?**

TEGAN AND SARA **"Closer"**
No group this decade crafts throwback new-wave grooves as danceable as these Canadian twins...

LUCIUS **"Gone Insane"**
...yet this up-and-coming Brooklyn outfit comes close with '80s-style gloss—and some biting lyrics.

EDWARD SHARPE AND THE MAGNETIC ZEROS **"No Love Like Yours"**
The "Home" collective serves up sunny vibes on this hippy-dippy love-in.

WILD FEATHERS **"Into the Sun"**
The lovefest continues but gets a twangy twist from this Nashville-based quartet.

BEYONCÉ **"Formation"**
Bey's strongest political statement yet—and also one of her fiercest.

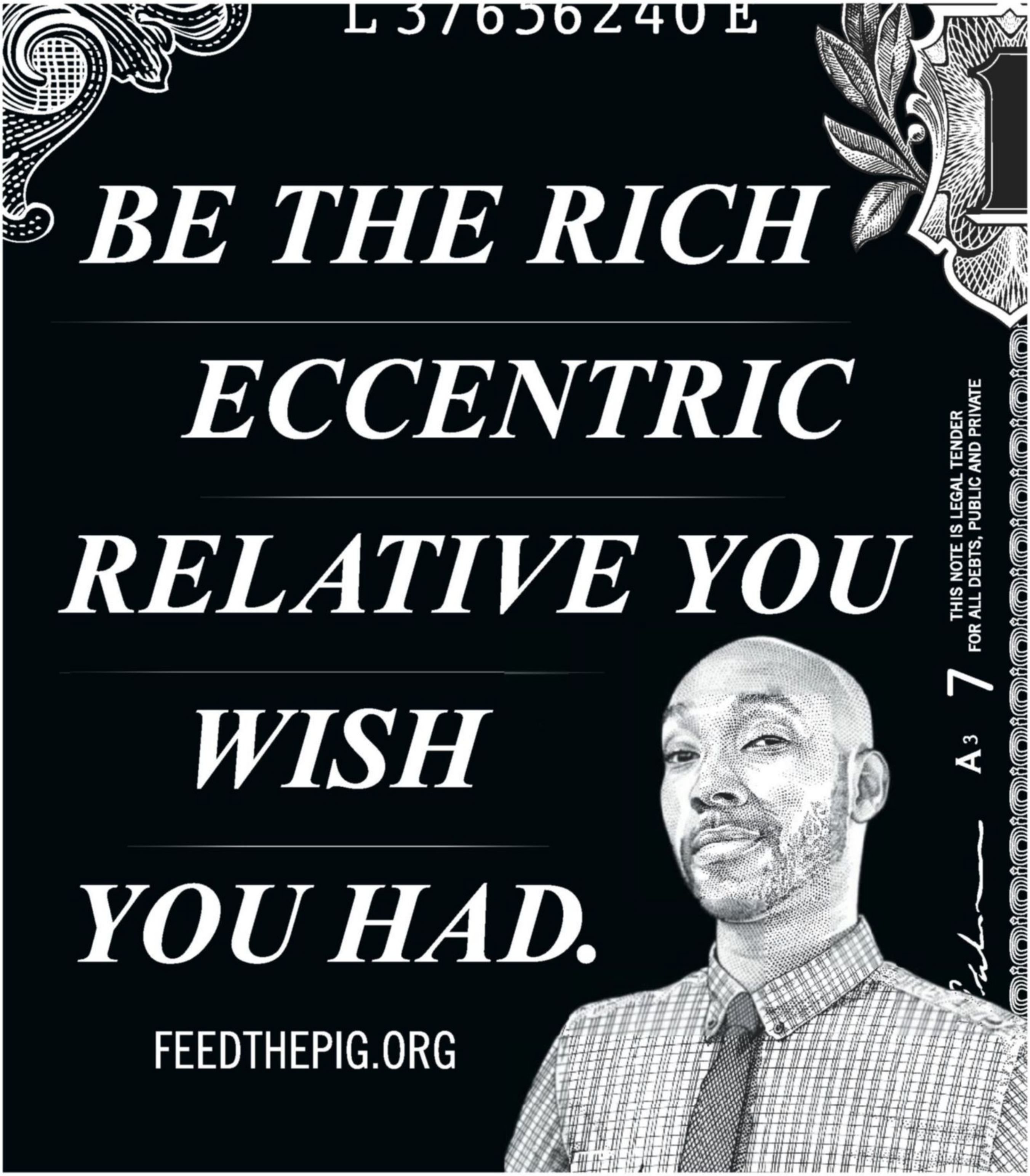
LIZZO **"Ain't I"**
The MC is an ace wordsmith on this club-rattling polemic about race, politics, and feminism in America.

M83 **"Midnight City"**
Electronic whiz Anthony Gonzalez builds a fantastical dreamscape with some seriously sexy sax.

UNDERWORLD **"Ova Nova"**
The British EDM kings elevate a moody synth melody with hypnotic chanting.

LORETTA LYNN **"Who's Gonna Miss Me?"**
The country queen contemplates her life on this easygoing acoustic tune.

MARGO PRICE **"Hands of Time"**
No wonder Jack White's a fan: This Nashville singer shows she's an old soul with a voice as striking as Lynn's.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▶ *(Clockwise from bottom left)* Little Simz, Sunflower Bean's Julia Cumming, Bibi Bourelly, Dilly Dally's Katie Monks, Stormzy, Metro Boomin, Sheer Mag's Christina Halladay, Jidenna, Pumarosa's Isabel Munoz-Newsome, and Public Access T.V.'s John Eatherly

BREAKING BIG

10 SXSW BREAKOUTS TO HEAR NOW

Each year, hundreds of artists descend upon Austin for the annual SXSW Music Festival. These are the 10 newcomers that mattered most in 2016. **BY ERIC RENNER BROWN & JESSICA GOODMAN**

1 ⁄

BIBI BOURELLY

BACKSTORY Fresh from co-writing hits for Rihanna ("Bitch Better Have My Money," "Higher") and Selena Gomez ("Camouflage"), the German-born 21-year-old will release her major-label debut this year.

SOUND Bourelly fuses raw, R&B-style grooves with rock guitars and scratchy, intimate vocals—she's pop's coolest new party girl who DGAF.

2 ⁄

PUMAROSA

BACKSTORY On the heels of their trippy, seven-minute 2015 debut single, "Priestess," this London-based quintet were the festival's buzziest rock act: Almost every one of their five shows was packed with A&R reps clamoring to sign them.

SOUND The group infuses its self-described "industrial spiritual" sound with dark, gothic-tinged grooves and singer Isabel Munoz-Newsome's bewitching wail.

3 ⁄

JIDENNA

BACKSTORY Signed to Janelle Monáe's Wondaland Records, this Brooklyn-based singer broke out with the Grammy-nominated "Classic Man" in 2015, but his live show—where he boogies like Pitbull—is where he really comes to life.

SOUND Jidenna combines pop, funk, R&B, and dance beats with moving lyrics about racial equality.

4 ⁄

STORMZY

BACKSTORY The rapper, a staple on Britain's hip-hop grime scene, had a U.K. top 10 hit in 2015 with the wild freestyle "Shut Up."

SOUND Stormzy blends R&B, pop, and old-school hip-hop with a cocky swagger. Sample boast: "That's my laptop, that's my sound....That's my kingdom, that's my crown."

5 ⁄

METRO BOOMIN

BACKSTORY One of the most sought-after producers in hip-hop today, Metro Boomin has cut records with Future, Drake, and Kanye West—but based on his SXSW appearances, he's ready for his own headlining shows.

SOUND On standout tracks like "Chanel Vintage," featuring Young Thug and Future, the MC crafts a drowsy slow-burner that swells into a ferocious, party-igniting banger.

6 ⁄

LITTLE SIMZ

BACKSTORY The 22-year-old British rapper showed why Kendrick Lamar called her the "illest thing" in hip-hop right now: Her set during Tumblr's all-female lineup showcased her explosive stage presence.

SOUND Simz lays honest, feminist rhymes over electro-psych beats—but she excels when rapping about identity on slower, piano-powered tunes like "Wings."

7 ⁄

DILLY DALLY

BACKSTORY After releasing their full-length debut, *Sore*, in 2015, this Toronto quartet are reviving the grit and sleaze of late-'80s grunge with a live show that's more crushing than getting pulverized in a mosh pit.

SOUND These twentysomethings have studied the used-record bins well: Dilly Dally execute the heavy, hook-laden sounds of the Pixies, Sonic Youth, and Nirvana.

8 ⁄

SUNFLOWER BEAN

BACKSTORY The New York trio draw on a broad palette of influences: Guitarist Nick Kivlen is an avowed fan of hardcore punk, drummer Jacob Faber is a student of jazz saxophone, and singer-guitarist Julia Cumming studied classical singing.

SOUND Despite those diverse musical backgrounds, the group splits the difference between psychedelic pioneers like Syd Barrett-era Pink Floyd and contemporary indie bands like DIIV.

9 ⁄

SHEER MAG

BACKSTORY You'd be hard-pressed to learn much about this Philadelphia group through a Google search, but it has amazing origins. Brothers Kyle and Hart Seely met singer Christina Halladay while studying at SUNY Purchase before moving to Philly and fine-tuning their sound in a space they nicknamed the Nuthouse.

SOUND Sheer Mag mix lo-fi punk guitars and arena-ready licks with Halladay's gale-force Janis Joplin-style pipes.

10 ⁄

PUBLIC ACCESS T.V.

BACKSTORY Frontman John Eatherly cut his teeth touring and recording with indie heroes such as Eleanor Friedberger, Smith Westerns, and Chairlift before striking out on his own with this group in 2014.

SOUND With crunchy riffs and shout-along choruses, Public Access T.V. throw it back to the classic punk sound of the Clash and early Elvis Costello.

LITTLE SIMZ: JAMES GOULDEN/GETTY IMAGES; CUMMING: SCOTT DUDELSON/GETTY IMAGES; BOURELLY, STORMZY, METRO BOOMIN, HALLADAY, MUNOZ-NEWSOME: ROGER KISBY/GETTY IMAGES (5); MONKS: DUSTIN FINKELSTEIN/GETTY IMAGES; JIDENNA: TIM MOSENFELDER/GETTY IMAGES; EATHERLY: ROBERT A TOBIANSKY/GETTY IMAGES

EW **MORE ON EW.COM**
Hear these acts—and 20 more of EW's picks—at **ew.com/sxsw2016**

ETHAN HAWKE: KIND OF *BLUE*

The actor, 45, talks about channeling troubled West Coast jazz titan Chet Baker in the new biopic *Born to Be Blue* (see review, page 93)—and reveals why actors love playing musicians.

BY ERIC RENNER BROWN

What drew you to play Chet Baker?

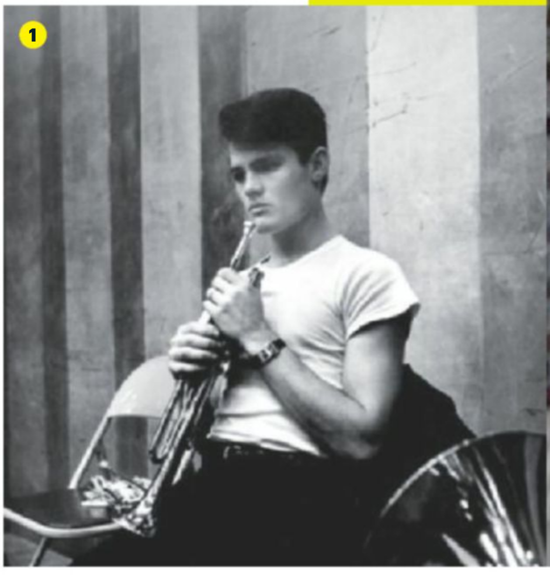
I saw Bruce Weber's [1988 Baker documentary] *Let's Get Lost* around the time I graduated high school, and it introduced me to this incredibly mysterious soul. I started buying his records, and a few years later Richard Linklater and I started developing a Chet Baker movie. That fell apart, but I had done all this research about playing the part and was really excited about it. That was a real burning itch that didn't get satiated. Fifteen years go by, and [director] Robert Budreau sends me this script about Chet in his 40s; it managed to get around a lot of the clichés of your basic biopic. I was hypnotized by it.

The movie zooms in on a brief period of Chet's life and also distorts some facts. Why?

A lot of biopics get lost in trying to maintain factual accuracy as if they were a documentary. I like the idea of trying to dive into the myth and just play around with it. He is such an enigmatic, mysterious person that the idea of trying to imagine his reality was a really fun exercise. He had this detached coolness about him that allows for people to project onto him whatever they want. It was a unique challenge to make him somebody specific.

How did you get into character?

I'd get dressed in these crazy outfits from the period. You could find videos of him playing and of him talking. It was easy to conjure his spirit because I had so much to draw from. To



1 Chet Baker circa 1953
2 Ethan Hawke as Baker in a scene from *Born to be Blue*

> "MUSIC IS JUST ABOUT AS POWERFUL A UNIFYING FORCE AS WE HAVE."
> —ETHAN HAWKE

HAWKE: GARY MILLER/GETTY IMAGES; BAKER: BOB WILLOUGHBY/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES; *BORN TO BE BLUE*: IFC FILMS

play a part like this, you kind of have to disappear down a rabbit hole a little bit. It'd be hard to go down the rabbit hole to play J. Edgar Hoover, because who the hell wants to be J. Edgar Hoover? [*Laughs*] Being Chet Baker has its upsides: beautiful women, jazz. If you love jazz and you love this world, it's difficult to call it work.

Will his story resonate with viewers who aren't familiar with his music?

Chet has a peculiar celebrity: Some people act like he's a household name, and other people get him confused with [musician] Chet Atkins. As a filmmaker you have to make it assuming nobody knows anything. The movie needs to be just as interesting if his name is Chet Baker or Dan McGillicuddy. Chet Baker's not the only one to really suffer with insecurity and a midlife crisis. He's not the only one to fight these demons of addiction and that war between really believing in yourself and really hating yourself. He's not the first to walk that razor's edge.

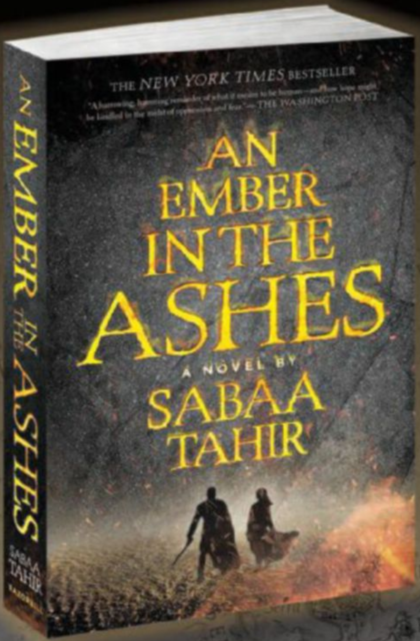
What was your favorite period of Baker's music?

There's two high-water marks for me. The [1987] *Live From Tokyo* performance is just everything he ever wanted to be. The other is [the mid-'50s recording] *Chet in Paris*: You can see this period as really formative.

Why do actors like to portray musicians in movies?

One thing about studying Shakespeare as an actor is that you start to hear the music in language—Shakespeare and the best rappers have a lot in common. Music is just about as powerful a unifying force as we have. It's without language, it's without race, it's without so much. It's no mystery why actors want to tell their stories and why audiences want to see it—it's because we want to be a little closer to the music.

"Mixes *The Hunger Games* with *Game of Thrones*…and adds a dash of *Romeo and Juliet*."
—*The Hollywood Reporter*



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Books

BETWEEN THE LINES

Prince announced that he's sold a memoir, *The Beautiful Ones*, to Spiegel & Grau: It's due out in fall 2017. Europa will publish a children's book by elusive author. • **Elena Ferrante** called *The Beach at Night* later this year.

EDITED BY **TINA JORDAN** @EWTinaJordan

LAB
GIRL
Hope Jahren

Lab Girl

BY	PAGES	GENRE	REVIEW BY
Hope Jahren	290	Memoir	Leah Greenblatt @*Leahbats*

GROWING UP, HOPE JAHREN "NEVER HEARD A STORY about a single living female scientist," she writes, "never met one or even saw one on television." Born and raised in a rural Minnesota town built around a meat-processing plant and defined mostly by its brutal winters and Scandinavian restraint, she assumed that the grim endurance of her Norwegian-immigrant ancestors was her legacy. ("I suspected that they hadn't relocated to the coldest place on Earth and then taken up disemboweling pigs because things were going well in Europe, but it never occurred to me to ask.")

She did turn out to be tenacious, though not exactly in the way she had pictured: Long hours spent entertaining herself as a child in her physics-teacher father's work space piqued Jahren's interest in science, and her housewife mother's unhappiness propelled her to pursue higher education all the way to a UC Berkeley Ph.D. Today, she's an internationally renowned geobiologist with three Fulbrights, her own world-class laboratory at the University of Hawaii, and a Wikipedia page longer and starrier than most U.S. senators'.

Lab Girl is her warm, witty recounting of the near half century of adventures, setbacks, and detours that brought her from there to here. But even more than that, it's a fascinating portrait of her engagement with the natural world: Alternating personal anecdotes with brief chapters that read like especially pithy TED Talks—no doubt honed by years of teaching easily bored undergrads—she investigates everything from the secret life of cacti to the tiny miracles encoded in an acorn seed, studding her observations with memorable sentences like "You may think a mushroom is a fungus. This is exactly like believing that a penis is a man."

Also central to the book is her friendship with an eccentric colleague named Bill who becomes her best friend, botanical soul mate, and (sometimes literal) partner in crime. Her accounts of their ongoing dialogues can feel more clumsy than profound, but Jahren's singular gift is her ability to convey the everyday wonder of her work: exploring the strange, beautiful universe of living things that endure and evolve and bloom all around us, if we bother to look. **A–** E A

MEMORABLE LINES "A seed is alive while it waits. Every acorn on the ground is just as alive as the three-hundred-year-old oak tree that towers over it."

KEY E = E-BOOK C = CD A = AUDIBLE

PHOTOGRAPH BY **METTIE OSTROWSKI**

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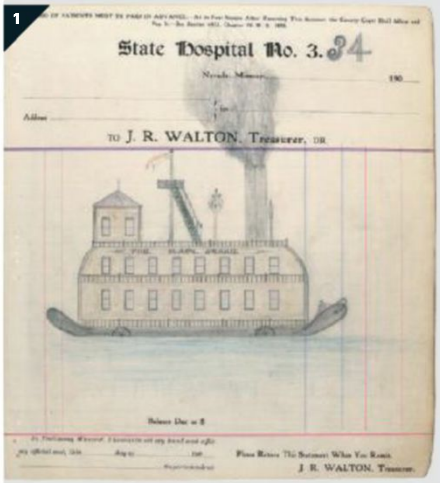
State Hospital No. 3. 34
TO J. R. WALTON, Treasurer, DR
J. R. WALTON, Treasurer.

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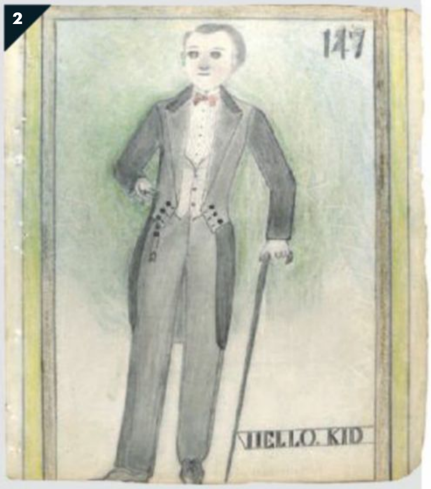
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HELLO. KID

DISCOVERED ARTIST

Inside an Unquiet Mind

A battered hospital ledger plucked from a trash can—which turned out to contain the remarkable drawings of James Deeds Jr., who lived at a Missouri mental hospital from 1936 to 1974—has been published as a book called *The Electric Pencil*. BY TINA JORDAN

1 ⁄

STEAMBOATS

Deeds drew 23 pictures of steamboats, but there wasn't a river near the hospital. As Richard Goodman points out in the introduction, though, "steamboats glorify both *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Life on the Mississippi*," and he speculates that someone may have read Twain's books to Deeds.

2 ⁄

FORMAL WEAR

"The men and women in Deeds' world are always dressed in their best," says Goodman, citing this young dandy in tails. "No one…is slovenly, crude, aggressive, or ugly. No one is mocked, lampooned. No one hurt or damaged."

3 ⁄

WILD ANIMALS

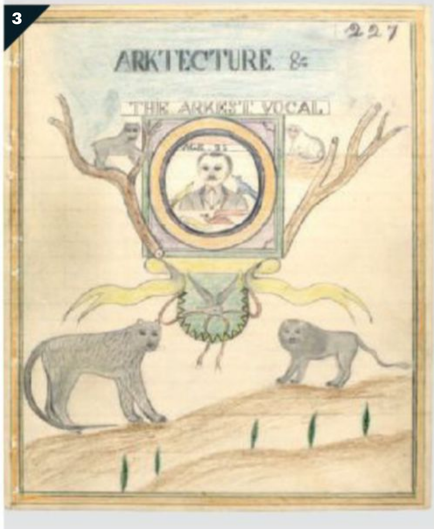
Deeds drew many animals, but in his artwork, the lions and other big cats are nonthreatening. "He was someone who, despite his bleak surroundings, created a serene, sweet world," writes Goodman. "If this is a manifestation of his subconscious, then he must have been a kindhearted man."

4 ⁄

PORTRAITS

Nowhere is Deeds' care with detail more apparent than in his pictures of young women: Just look at the plumes on this hat and the flowers in the bouquet. Though he had access to pencils, crayons, and ink, Deeds' art supplies were clearly limited, resulting in this lovely, muted palette.

3


ARKITECTURE &
THE ARKEST VOCAL
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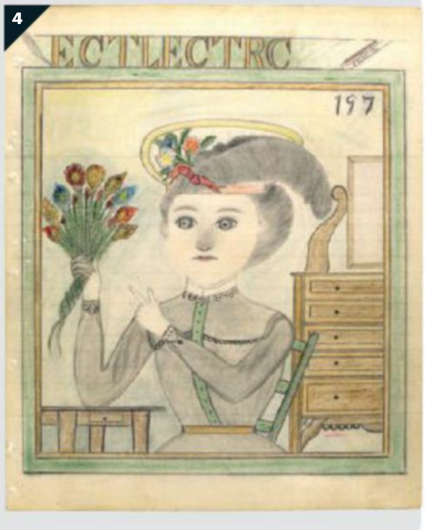
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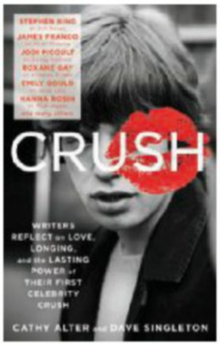

STEPHEN KING
JAMES FRANCO
JODI PICOULT
ROXANE GAY
EMILY GOULD
HANNA ROSIN
CRUSH
WRITERS REFLECT on LOVE, LONGING, and the LASTING POWER of THEIR FIRST CELEBRITY CRUSH
CATHY ALTER and DAVE SINGLETON

First Flames

In this charming collection of essays—edited by Cathy Alter and Dave Singleton—writers recall their earliest crushes

MICK JAGGER

HANNA ROSIN

"I bought *Goats Head Soup* and started to listen to 'Angie.' I'd heard the rumor that in a couple of the verses he said 'Andy' instead. How thrilling, how transgressive, that Mick could love a girl named Angie one day and a boy named Andy the next."

KIM NOVAK

STEPHEN KING

"Novak was so heavy-eyed and feral. It was the first time I really noticed a woman's breasts, I think—at least coupled to a desire to touch them."

DONNY OSMOND

JODI PICOULT

"In my dreams, Donny was clean-cut and asexual, attentive and gentle and understanding."

JARED LETO

EMILY GOULD

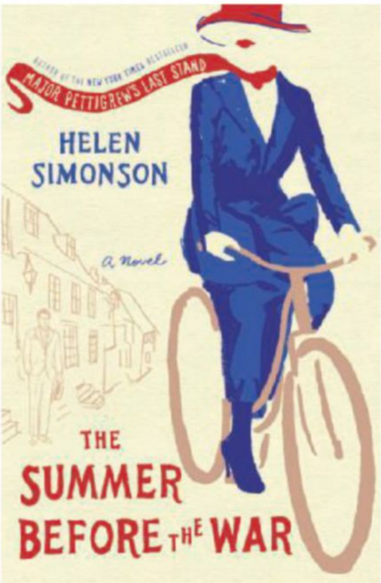
"Before him, I'd only pretended to understand what my peers were talking about when they described their feelings for members of New Kids on the Block or, later, Weezer."

RIVER PHOENIX

JAMES FRANCO

"I wanted River's character [in *Stand by Me*], Chris Chamber, to be *my* friend; actually, I wanted *River* to be my friend. But even more than that, I wanted to *be* River."

DRAWINGS: PRINCETON ARCHITECTURAL PRESS (4); JAGGER: MICHAEL PUTLAND/GETTY IMAGES; NOVAK, PHOENIX: EVERETT COLLECTION (2); OSMOND: MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES; LETO: RON GALELLA, LTD./WIREIMAGE


AUTHOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
MAJOR PETTIGREW'S LAST STAND
HELEN SIMONSON
a Novel
THE SUMMER BEFORE THE WAR

The Summer Before the War

BY Helen Simonson | **PAGES** 473 | **GENRE** Novel

REVIEW BY Maya Stanton *@MayaStanton*

▶ **WHEN BEATRICE NASH ARRIVES IN THE** seaside town of Rye, England, with her bicycle and books in tow, her father has recently died, and WWI is imminent. She's been hired to teach Latin at the village school by Agatha Kent, an upstanding local woman with firmly held beliefs about gender and social equality who—along with her nephews—befriends the lonely teacher. Beatrice soon dives into village life, with all of its quirks and frustrations, and it's a rude awakening for a young woman with a liberal upbringing. Accustomed to intellectual work and some measure of autonomy, she chafes at the provincial attitudes of the time: She's not trusted to handle her own finances or to have the fortitude to discipline her charges the way a male teacher might; she's on the road to spinsterhood at age 23 but still too young and pretty to be taken seriously.

As Beatrice is faced with these narrow views on the role and value of women, she's forced to examine her personal history and acknowledge a difficult truth or two; the author allows her protagonist the strength for genuine self-reflection, and her resulting clarity is refreshingly honest. Within the framework of a wartime love story, Simonson captures the contradictions of small-town life perfectly: the idyllic pastimes, the overly involved neighbors, the hints at secrets and unspoken truths. Her tale's conclusion might be telegraphed from the opening pages, but thanks to a lively tone and sympathetic (though broadly sketched) characters, the journey is a thoroughly enjoyable, addictively readable one. **B+** E C A

"Dirt Will Always Win in the End"

In the 1970s, when he was a cash-starved young poet, **Bob Rosenthal** worked as a house cleaner. The book he wrote about the experience, *Cleaning Up New York*—part memoir, part how-to manual—became a cult classic that's finally back in print.

BY ISABELLA BIEDENHARN

Why did you write the book?

I was at the CUNY writing program, and Francine du Plessix Grey was teaching nonfiction. I must have mentioned that I was cleaning, and she said, "Oh, you have to write about that." So it became my master's thesis. When I read the part about vacuum-cleaner sex at a class party, Francine almost fell off her chair laughing. So I realized, "Hey, there's something here."

What did you think when *The New York Review of Books* wanted to reissue it?

I was knocked silly. I'm thrilled that it still has kind of a relevancy. I'm trying to figure out why it's more interesting now than it ever was in the '70s. That's something maybe you can figure out.

Well, a lot of the sentiments of the '60s and '70s—meditating, being Zen—are back.

I think it's some of that. I also think there's something about the naïveté in the book. Young people today do not have the luxury of being naive. More than they ever need to know about sex, the body, everything is available to them in a nanosecond. The book is innocent. Although I'd forgotten how prevalent the marijuana culture was back then.

You stole weed from every place you worked!

Everywhere I went! This was ditch weed. It was mild, and you could clean on it. You could work on it, because it was relaxing.

Did you already know how to clean when you began housecleaning?

There's cleaning, which is just getting the rough stuff off, but then there's shining. It's elbow grease. You just gotta get a cloth and rub, rub, rub, and it kind of brings out the shine. I'm not a neat freak, but I do know how to clean.

You write that "dirt will always win in the end," but I learned a lot about cleaning from your book.

Yes. Note that its Library of Congress number is also cross-

ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN INZANA

> “WHEN I READ THE PART ABOUT VACUUM-CLEANER SEX AT A CLASS PARTY, FRANCINE ALMOST FELL OFF HER CHAIR LAUGHING.”
>
> —BOB ROSENTHAL

ROSENTHAL: MARYANN GERARDUZZI

referenced in the cleaning section! So it’s considered an actual book on cleaning. There’s one product I mention that’s no longer in existence. But Murphy’s Oil Soap, I still use that. I love it. It’s a vegetable soap, and it doesn’t dry your skin, and it’s really good for wood.

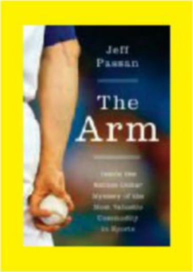
Will you ever write another memoir?

You know, I ended up working for Allen Ginsberg for 20 years. When he was dying, I said, “I’m going to write about what you taught me.” And he said, “Oh, good! Is it going to be like *Cleaning Up New York*?” And I said, “Yeah, I’m going to make it as funny as I can.” While teaching during the summers I would plug away at this thing.

I’d really like to read it.

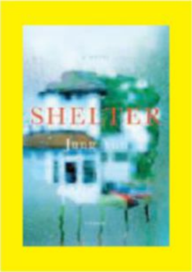
I shipped it out to a bunch of small presses, and they all said, “Well, we did a Beat book recently, we didn’t make money.” Now maybe that book will get a slightly better birthing. If somebody says, “Where is it?” I can say, “If you want to see it, I’ve got it.”

QUICK TAKES



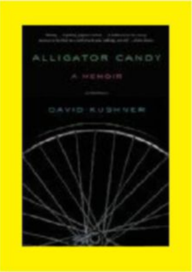
The Arm
JEFF PASSAN
Sports

If William Goldman pegged Hollywood when he wrote accusingly, “Nobody knows anything,” Passan tears into baseball’s plague of elbow injuries and walks away with the same conclusion. Every year, Major League teams gamble more than $1.5 billion on pitchers, an increasingly fragile breed in part due to the sport’s obsession with velocity. Passan spent three years researching every aspect of the epidemic, from the horrors of youth baseball to the doctors who perfected the dreaded Tommy John surgery to two big leaguers facing a future after their golden arms go bust. It’s a tad “inside baseball,” but it’s a must-read for any sports dad or anxious Mets fan. **A** —*Jeff Labrecque* **E C A**



Shelter
JUNG YUN
Novel

After Kyung’s parents survive an unspeakable attack, everyone, especially his wife, Gillian, thinks he should offer them unwavering support. But they don’t know about Kyung’s traumatic childhood, which he has, until now, avoided remembering by spending as little time with his folks as possible. Yun makes the tension inside Kyung visceral and unbearable as the complex knot of anger and pity he wrestles with hardens into a confused rage. With its major events occurring at the book’s beginning and end, the middle is left as a sort of extended character study, where Yun skillfully makes Kyung’s unraveling feel fast-paced and urgent. **B+** —*Isabella Biedenharn* **E C A**



Alligator Candy
DAVID KUSHNER
Memoir

In 1973, in a pre-*Dateline* world in which children roamed neighborhoods unchaperoned and without a care, 4-year-old David Kushner watched his big brother Jon bike off into the woods, never to return. An ensuing search revealed he’d been brutally murdered, and his two killers were apprehended. Almost 30 years later, Kushner, by then a journalist and father, decided to investigate his own past to answer long-lingering questions about the tragedy he’d been too young to fully understand. Kushner’s story is uniquely, horrifyingly tragic, but his reckoning with loss and the fear of loss is universal and deeply human. **A–** —*Stephan Lee* **E**

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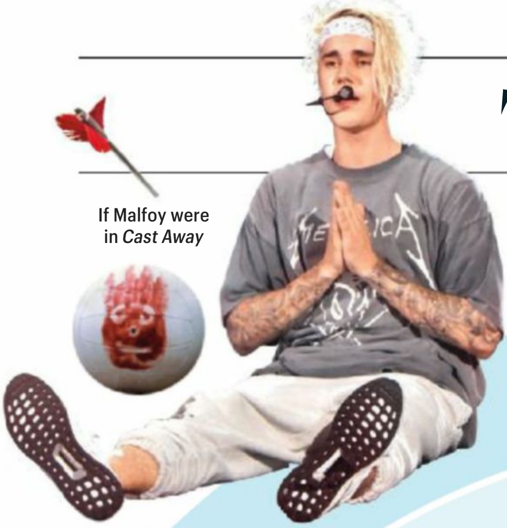
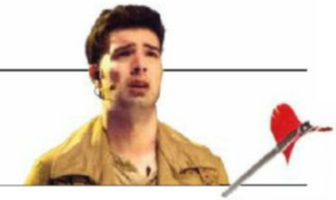
KEY **E** = E-BOOK **C** = CD **A** = AUDIBLE

The Bullseye

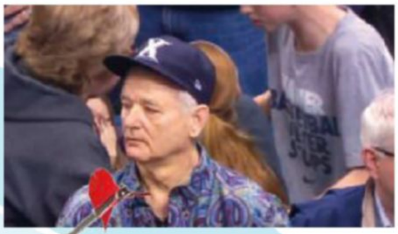
BY **MARC SNETIKER** @MarcSnetiker



If Malfoy were in *Cast Away*



Somehow, Jesus singing Katy Perry from a hotel rooftop wasn't even the worst part of *The Passion*.



Bill Murray must have finally seen *Rock the Kasbah*.

Follow this *Path* to your next obsession.

Jeremy Renner says he's "open" to the idea of a Hawkeye TV series. Well, that makes one of us.

Jessa and Adam: when good relationships happen to bad people

TEAM
IGGY AZALEA

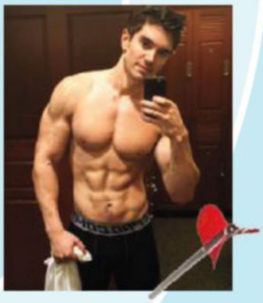
Iggy Azalea drops catchy new single "Team," and we might actually be on hers now?

SeaWorld agrees to end captive orca breeding; however, Sia still has no plans to release captive Maddie Ziegler.

Olivia Newton-John's old boyfriend reportedly found after 11 years missing. Police followed Newton-John's description: "Like rama lama lama ka dinga da dinga dong."

Margot Robbie to play Tonya Harding. Now the biggest question in Hollywood is, who gets to play Nancy Kerrigan's leg?!

Sure, Zayn's the Justin Timberlake of the group...but who's the Chris Kirkpatrick?!



Steve Grand says people love to hate him because he's a young, good-looking, white gay man. Nope—it's only because he says things like that.

The *Real Housewives* franchise turns 10 this week, or 87 in Vicki Gunvalson years.

Just change the title of *Dancing With the Stars* to *The Nyle DiMarco Show*, because we'd seriously watch him do anything for two hours.

Adele's boyfriend's email supposedly gets hacked—yet another sobering reminder that "Hello" is not a strong enough password.

Just like "Unwritten," Natasha Bedingfield should have kept this dress Unworn.

The von Trapp family singers have disbanded to pursue solo careers. "Adieu, bitches!" said Gretl.

THE PASSION: MICHAEL BECKER/FOX; *THE PATH*: HULU (2); ORCA: SHUTTERSTOCK; ZIEGLER AND SIA: JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES; ZAYN MALIK: ANDREW LIPOVSKY/NBC/GETTY IMAGES; GRAND: @STEVEGRANDMUSIC; *THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF ORANGE COUNTY*: TOMMY GARCIA/BRAVO; *DANCING WITH THE STARS*: ADAM TAYLOR/ABC; ADELE: SAMIR HUSSEIN/REDFERNS; BEDINGFIELD: BRYAN STEFFY/GETTY IMAGES; ROBBIE: DAN MACMEDAN/WIREIMAGE.COM; HARDING: CHRIS COLE/ALLSPORT/GETTY IMAGES; NEWTON-JOHN: GABE GINSBERG/GETTY IMAGES; *GIRLS*: CRAIG BLANKENHORN/HBO; JUSTIN BIEBER: JEFF KRAVITZ/FILMMAGIC.COM; WILSON: FRANCOIS DUHAMEL

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